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[WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS, TENPENCE.]

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

If ever there were a period in English history when England required a strong, honest, and wise Government, it is now. If ever there were a time when to support such a Government there needed a patriotic and united Parliament, it is the present. The nation stands in the midst of dangers. Fortunately there is neither incipient treason nor even strong disaffection on the part of the masses of the people to trammel the hands of the Executive, or to distract its resolves. Our states-

men have a fair field for the display of any high qualities of courage or of foresight which they may happen to possess. But unfortunately there is little or nothing in the character either of the heads of the present Administration or of the House of Commons to inspire much confidence. To temporise, to truckle, to procrastinate, to make any shift rather than to decide boldly upon principles—to accept a Truce when a Peace might have been commanded—to patch up a difficulty rather than remove or destroy it, to do anything that may satisfy the pressing emergencies of to-day, leaving to-mor-

row to shift for itself;—such seems to be the only care and the highest policy of the men to whom the destinies of the greatest nation of the world are at this moment confided, and of the Parliamentary majority by whose favour they retain office. Yet it is abundantly evident to all whose mental perceptions are not bounded by the narrow circle of official life, and who can see into that great world which exists beyond the pale of the Treasury benches and the lobby of the House of Commons, that a day is near at hand when Great Britain may require all the patriotism of her people, and all the statesman-



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION.—COUNTRY VISITORS AT THE ILLUMINATION.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



ship of her foremost intellects, to steer clear of the many difficulties which menace her peace, and to maintain her rights intact, and her honour unsullied.

No one who has read the history of Europe with the least care and comprehension imagines that the peace of Paris has in reality settled anything beyond the temporary security of Turkey; that the affairs of Europe are not closely intermingled with those of America; that the revolutions of 1848 have run their course; that the complications which arise in the East may not be exasperated by the passions of the West; or that in these days of rapid locomotion, and of extended intercourse amongst all the civilised and semi-civilised nations of the globe, a war between Great Britain and the United States of America, if such a fratricidal and abominable contest ever arose, would, of necessity, be confined to the original belligerents. Those who imagine any of these things must have read history to little purpose, and must be but imperfectly acquainted with the wishes, the wants, and the passions of contemporary nations. Fortunately for England, the close of the war against Russia finds her in possession of a splendid army, and of a more magnificent and powerful fleet than was ever possessed by any nation in ancient or modern times. While she possesses that fleet and army, and while her people have the power to call for the dismissal of an incompetent Ministry or a time-serving Parliament, she stands upon a vantage-ground from which it will not be easy for any combination of enemies to displace her. The old Anglo-French alliance that confronted Russia falls into abeyance by the peace which it has concluded. France and England may or may not unite for other purposes than the safety of Turkey, but it is obvious that other alliances both for England and for France may evolve themselves out of the present condition of Europe, and of the equally ominous state of politics in America. Great Britain stands between two dangers. On the European continent—every one of whose Sovereigns dreads the renewal of the commotions of 1848—there is forming, or has already been formed, a League and Alliance of absolute Monarchs, of which the object is to repress all popular freedom. The Emperors of Russia and Austria, the King of Prussia, the Pope, the King of Naples, the petty Kings and Princes of all Germany and Italy, except Sardinia;—and last, but by no means least, the Emperor of the French, desire to maintain the *status quo* in every part of Europe. They each and all dread Revolution. They each rule by the sword, and deny their subjects all right to the management of public affairs, and all voice in their discussion, unless the voice be employed to praise the acts of arbitrary power, and to counsel acquiescence in its decrees. Each of these Sovereigns dislikes or is afraid of the system of government which prevails in England. Each mistrusts his people, for the simple reason that the people desire the establishment of a political system incompatible with the arbitrary rule of the irresponsible individuals who have inherited or grasped it. We do not except the Emperor of the French, because neither that great Sovereign himself, nor any one of the obsequious instruments who surround him, can believe that the intelligent, refined, active, and generous French nation is always to be governed upon the Russian system of autocracy and officialism. England is the sole great power in Europe which can boast of any constitutional liberty; and for this reason England has no hearty allies among the European Governments. They seek her alliance, if they need it, for the purposes of the moment—and, that purpose served, they relapse into the quiescent antagonism of their opposite principles of action. But the nations themselves look to England as their model and their hope. Italians, Germans, Poles, Hungarians, Bohemians, Croats, Roumans, all desire a change in the institutions under which they groan, and will not be satisfied to endure their present degradation merely because it has pleased the Governments of France and England to patch up the Turkish difficulty. Hence there is daily danger in Europe, and hence there will continue to be danger, till the great principles enunciated in England in the reigns of Charles I. and James II., and in France in the Revolutions of 1789, 1793, 1830, and 1848, work themselves out to their legitimate end—the consolidation in Europe of a system of rational government, such as the people require, and such as their intelligence, their civilisation, and their Christianity entitle them to expect.

The dangers that menace the tranquillity of the world from the American side of the Atlantic are scarcely less serious, and will, we are afraid, sorely try both the skill of our rulers and the mettle of our people. We have elsewhere entered at considerable length into the particulars of the Nicaraguan dispute, and will only say in this place that, if a war unluckily arise on this pretext, it will be a war of Governments in the first place—not a war of the nations. The British people desire no war with America. They would look upon such a war with disgust and horror, and would deplore it as the greatest calamity that could befall them. We hope that the American people entertain similar sentiments. Most cordially do we wish that the United States of America possessed the whole of the debatable ground of Central America;—Nicaragua, Mosquitia, and the rest of it;—that they would give us three farthings, or one farthing, for our rights;—keep civil tongues in the heads of their statesmen, and so end the business. But, if this is not to be, we must look to our own Government to do its utmost to keep us out of the unworthy quarrel. But if, because the Russian peace is unpopular, they seek to make amends to the wounded self-love of their countrymen, by meeting the American Government with braggadocio and menace—if they precipitate this quarrel because they have a mighty fleet that longs for an opportunity to show of what it is capable—they will err as greatly by their rashness, as they have recently done by their unreadiness and unwillingness. To end the dispute, and to preserve their country's honour, is the task expected of them. The task may be difficult; but in its prosecution they will have the cordial and unanimous support of the nation.

The Sultan has given Lord Stratford de Redcliffe a piece of land on which to build a Protestant church.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

THE great improvement produced in the health of the Empress leaves little doubt that the ceremony of the christening will take place on the day fixed, the 14th inst. The Legate charged by the Pope to perform the office is expected to arrive in Paris on the 8th or 9th; and it is now reported that it is probable, notwithstanding all the assertions to the contrary, that the Queen of Sweden will come to perform in person her part as god-mother to the Prince Imperial. It was intended that on the night of the christening a magnificent ball should be given at the Hôtel de Ville; but, as the banquet cannot fail to occupy a considerable time, it was thought that such an arrangement would prolong the entertainment too much and prove too fatiguing for the Empress; the ball is therefore deferred till the following evening. The occasion of the baptismal ceremony will be attended with all the pomp and solemnity that can be given to it. Not a single guest admitted to the interior of Notre Dame is permitted to dispense with the rule of wearing uniform, even in the most remote and obscure parts of the building. The ladies of the Empress's household (with the exception of the Amirale Bruat, who carries the Prince), and, we believe, the wives of the chief dignitaries of State, are all to wear court-dresses and trains, and no lady is to appear but in full dress. The preparations for the illuminations, especially that of the Hôtel de Ville, are on the most magnificent scale. In the Place de la Concorde splendid fireworks are to take place. At Angers the foundry Guillaume Besson has been engaged in casting four superb bells to be hung in Notre Dame, and used for the first time in the approaching ceremony. The largest of these bells weighs nearly 4000 pounds, the smallest between fourteen and fifteen hundred. They are christened in due form, the largest having for sponsors M. Sibour, Bishop of Tripoli in partibus infidelium, and Mlle. de Talleyrand, Duchesse de Perigord; the second, the Comte Charles de Montalembert and the Marquise de Juigné; the third, the Comte de Tascher and the Viscountess de Quelen; and the fourth, the Marquis de Pastoret and Mlle. Affre. All the *marraines* have been chosen among the families of the last five or six Archbishops of Paris. The *grand bourdon* of Notre Dame is many centuries old: its weight is computed at 24,000 lb.

The rains of last week produced in many parts a terrible renewal of the preceding inundations, but the beautiful summer weather of the last few days has already done the country "a world of good," and it is hoped will, in various instances, go far to repair the damage caused, so that the mischief will be more local than general. Still, there is no denying the fact that where the inundations have occurred the loss and consequent distress must be terrible, and no doubt the Government will feel itself called upon to adopt some measures for the relief of the numerous sufferers.

In the gardens of the Tuileries on the terrace looking on the Seine (which, since the departure of the Empress has been reopened to the public) a number of workmen are employed in placing some specimens of Russian sculpture brought from Sebastopol. As trophies these works have considerable interest and attraction, but as products of art their value is very low. Among these objects are two gigantic sphinxes in white marble; a large bas-relief from the front of some public monument—a work of considerable magnitude and importance; two figures, which appear also to have been employed in the decoration of a public building; and a lion's head, injured by a ball. Nearly all these sculptures bear the date of 1845; they are for the most part wholly wanting in force, vigour, and breadth, and bear a considerable resemblance to the would-be Greek school, of which Canova was the best representative; though, while they possess the defects of the works of that skilful sculptor, they want the grace and delicacy which distinguished his productions.

The number of subscribers to the "Cours familier de Littérature" of M. de Lamartine increases considerably, but not, it appears, in a sufficient degree to relieve his difficulties very effectually. The cause of these difficulties, which, from the well-known fact that M. de Lamartine inherited large possessions in landed property, had money with his wife, and has made unusually large sums by his indefatigable literary labours, it seemed almost impossible to account for, may, we are assured on good authority, be chiefly explained from two circumstances. The property in question, which consisted in vines—M. de Lamartine being one of the largest vine-growers in France—was, at the time of his entering upon it, charged with debts of upwards of £40,000. Since 1848 the grape disease has nearly neutralised the products, while at the same time existed, during a period of extreme scarcity, the same necessity as before for paying and supporting some four or five hundred families employed in the vineyards. Thus explained, the distress—for it is nothing less—of the poet appeals to general sympathy more eloquently, as we think, than any personal address to the public; and it is earnestly to be hoped that the work on which M. de Lamartine is engaged—a work so replete with the most valuable information, conveyed in the most interesting and popular form that it constitutes a sort of royal road to the acquisition of ancient and modern literature—may be made to fulfil its aim, and save its illustrious author from the ruin which becomes daily more impending.

The tour which the Emperor is making in the localities that have suffered the most severely from the inundations, produces the best moral as well as material effect. It has been a happy and a noble inspiration, and one certain to bear good fruits to all parties concerned.

The death of the historian, Augustin Thierry, has been an event of universal interest and regret. Like Milton, Thierry paid the penalty of his indefatigable studies by the loss of sight, and for many years he had been entirely crippled. In this state he encountered Mlle. de Quéranjal, a young lady of a Breton family, herself a woman of remarkable talents and acquirements, who was so touched by the position of the illustrious sufferer as to determine to devote her life to him. They married; and up to the period of his death her noble devotion was the support and consolation of his existence. Thierry's "Récit des Temps Mérovingiens," his "Dix Ans d'Etudes Historiques," his "Histoire de la Conquête de l'Angleterre par les Normands," and his "Lettres sur l'Histoire de France," entitle him to one of the first places among modern historians.

We regret to announce the severe and even dangerous illness of Mlle. Rachel.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

The organs of the French Government appear to have received instructions to keep the question of the Belgian press before the public attention, and to lose no opportunity of reiterating complaints against it. Thus the *Constitutionnel* of Tuesday says:—

The portion of the Belgian press so justly stigmatised by the protocol of the 8th of May, and which, after the recent debate in the Belgian Chambers, found it prudent to maintain a relative moderation, has not persisted for long in its new course. We learn from Brussels that these incendiary journals publish an appeal to insurrection, addressed to the Italian nation by M. Victor Hugo; and do not conceal that they are indebted for the communication to M. Mazzini. We have to observe that these appeals to the most evil of passions are not published in clandestine papers, as was stated on a solemn occasion. These journals are printed and distributed like all others; they have their subscribers—not in great numbers it is true; they are received in public rooms—not in all, it is equally true, for in some they have been excluded by the subscribers. Therefore, if these papers are not prosecuted, it is because the Belgian law on the press is impotent. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Belgian Government will consider the moment as arrived when it is necessary to demand of the Legislature that strength which is wanting in order to render Belgium really a neutral Power, and not a hotbed of incitement to insurrection and assassination.

The name of Mazzini is always used when people are to be frightened into repressive measures, or when Governments require an excuse for any arbitrary encroachment on a system usually liberal. It may be remarked, therefore, that just at the very juncture when the head of the

late Roman Republic is said to be working at Brussels, the *Risorgimento* of Turin of the 30th states that he has issued a circular to his agents, declaring his intention of withdrawing entirely from politics, and leaving London for New York or some other city of the United States. His agent at Turin, Advocate Bettini, has been instructed to sell the property he possesses in Piedmont.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The project of law intended to be laid before the new Chambers in Belgium, in pursuance of the engagement given by the Government, applies to three things in particular, viz., the stamp, the signing the article with the author's name, and the power given to the law officers of the Crown to institute proceedings without the necessity of a previous demand from a foreign government."

AMERICA—FRATERNISATION WITH THE FILIBUSTERS.

The Royal mail steam-ship *America*, which sailed from New York on the 20th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday last.

General Walker's Government in Nicaragua has at length been officially recognised by the United States. Padre Vilij, the Nicaraguan Envoy at Washington, on the 14th of April called at the State Department, when Mr. Marcy immediately received him and conducted him to the President, where he presented his credentials, and met with a cordial reception. The event created a great sensation.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* says:—

As I anticipated, Mr. Marcy was overruled in his opposition to the recognition of Walker's Government. Cushing, I understand, was for the recognition as soon as the new Minister arrived. It is thought by Pierce's friends that this new move will strengthen him at Cincinnati, in the Democratic Convention.

It is highly probable that a resolution will be introduced and pass Congress suspending our neutrality laws. The *Orizaba*, which sailed from New York last Saturday, took out instructions, by advice from here, that, in case the English frigate *Eurydice* should again attempt to stop her, to pay no attention to the demand until fired into, and then at once haul down her flag and surrender, as being unarmed and incapable of resistance. This will bring matters to a crisis.

In the Senate a message had been received from the President relative to the general condition of Central America, and the routes of transit between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. He says that a small body of individuals, invited to Nicaragua by the Democratic party in that country, had apparently put an end to the struggle which had existed there during the past ten years. The new Government exercises the actual power, and we don't go behind the fact to investigate the question of legitimacy, nor do we inquire into the causes which led to the change of government. If, therefore, when the Nicaraguan Minister, Colonel French, came here a few months ago the facts now presented had existed, he must have been received. Another has now presented himself and been received, satisfactory evidence existing that he represented a Government *de facto* and *de jure*. Numerous considerations of interest are advanced in the message with reference to the propriety of its reception. An animated debate ensued upon the reading of the message, in which Mr. Crittenden said that in one week's time the country would be agitated from one end to the other on this subject, and it might result in our being involved in a war.

Advices from Havannah, dated the 18th ult., announce that the Spanish Government is fitting out two maritime expeditions: one to assist the Costa Ricans against Walker, and the other to blockade Vera Cruz, in order to enforce payment of certain claims made by Spanish subjects.

QUEBEC, May 22.—The Canadian Ministry has resigned. The Assembly voted its confidence in the Ministers; but a majority of the Upper Canadian members was hostile to them. It is rumoured that Colonel Taché has been sent for by the Governor-General.

ST. JOHN'S (NEW BRUNSWICK), MAY 22.—Lieut.-Governor Sutton has dissolved the Assembly, whereupon the members of his Council tendered their resignations, which were accepted.

DISMISSAL OF MR. CRAMPTON.

The *Atlantic* steam-ship, with dates from New York to the 24th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday evening. It was not known when the steamer left whether Mr. Crampton had received his passport; but the following article, semi-official, from the *Morning Post* of Thursday, leaves no doubt as to the course which the American Government has taken:—

We said, in an article in which we treated of the relative position of America and England, a few days ago, that as Christians and friends of social progress we earnestly deprecated the outbreak of war, or even the cessation of peaceful relations, between two populations who, in their language, their mercantile transactions, and their relations of every-day life, are so interlaced as are the representatives of the Anglo-Saxon race upon this and the other side of the Atlantic.

We deeply regret to have to announce that since the publication of that article a course has been taken by the American Government which, although it is in no way equivalent to a declaration of war, evidently tends to diminish in a very serious degree the chances of preserving peace between the two nations. Our readers are aware that the Government of England, having first freely tendered to the United States, in the most candid and unreserved manner, a frank and full apology for any infraction of the American neutrality laws which might, wittingly or unwittingly, have been committed by British agents during the late war, have not considered it consistent with justice to Mr. Crampton, or with a due regard for the position of this kingdom, to accede to the further demand preferred by President Pierce for the recall of our Minister.

The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston at this point, however unwillingly, felt themselves constrained by justice, and therefore by their duty, to stop short in the path of concession; and the United States' Government, on the receipt of this, the ultimatum of England, has directed Mr. Crampton to withdraw from the territory of the Union.

That this is a most rash and intemperate step, at the present juncture, be the original merits of the questions at issue what they may, cannot, and we are convinced will not, be denied by the better and more considerate even of the people who live under the Government that have taken it. It is not easy in a country where public policy is swayed by such singular agglomerations of parties, and determined by such exceptional circumstances, as it is in America, to say what is the precise bent of public opinion; but, as far as it can be inferred, upon the present occasion, from the tone of the most influential of the journals of the United States, it is, with us, opposed to the violent and provocative policy to which the executive Government—somewhat mysteriously, as it seems to us—seeks to commit the American people. Irritating as that policy unquestionably is, we shall, we doubt not, continue to maintain that conciliatory conduct, and, at the same time, firm and dignified attitude, which we have throughout this untoward affair exhibited, in the hope that we may yet be able to prevent a further development of the apparently hostile disposition of the Government of the United States; nor is it unreasonable to expect that the other great nations of the civilised world will bring the influence of their opinion to bear upon the mind of the American population in such a manner as to check any further progress in those ill-judged demonstrations of aggression and of tendencies to war.

TURKEY.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 13, 1856.

The first *bona fide* step in token of the re-establishment of peace took place at Chek-Meç, about twenty miles from Constantinople, last Saturday, at one o'clock, when Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, accompanied by the Embassy, General Count Zamojsky and Major General Sir Stephen Lakeman, &c., &c., gave over to the Seraskier the Turkish Contingent Cavalry, commanded by General Shirley. At the brilliant review which then took place, graced as it was by the presence of Lady Stratford de Redcliffe and the Hon. Misses Canning, Mrs. Major Brett, and others of England's fair daughters, the greatest cordiality existed on all sides, and Lord Stratford expressed himself afterwards, at a sumptuous repast given by General Shirley in honour of the occasion, to be much gratified with the soldierly bearing of the men, and the evident accord between them and their officers. His Lordship also expressed satisfaction at the able manner in which General Shirley had carried on the organisation of his corps. The Seraskier, on his part, vouched for the efficiency of the body as also for the friendly disposition of the Turks to their English officers. The whole affair passed off with great élan, and the number, although small (about 2500 regular cavalry), presented a fine effect mounted on their little wiry horses, with their colours flying from their lances. The troops composed a portion of Sir Stephen Lakeman's corps in the Principalities.

LOSS OF THE YACHT ALMA.—We have received a telegraphic despatch from Dover informing us that Lord Alfred Paget's yacht, the *Alma*, was run down three or four miles off the South Foreland, at a little before midnight yesterday, by the Belgian mail-packet *Diamond*, on her way to Ostend. His Lordship and crew were saved in the yacht's gig.

THOUGHTS IN THOROUGHFARES.

I AM occasionally weak enough to buy off the opposition of the urchins who obstruct my passage through the London streets by the purchase of a penny newspaper. In glancing at its contents I have found that, in spite of its contracted space, ample room is afforded in its columns for lengthy communications on a question which the established daily press seems to treat as finally decided—namely, the guilt or innocence of the convict Palmer. What may be the consideration (whether highly moral or otherwise) which induces the penny papers to open their columns to lengthy communications impugning the verdict of the jury, finding fault with the charge of the Judge, and asserting the prisoner's legal innocence, in spite of all reasonable presumption of his guilt, is a point on which I will not speculate. The country seems to be generally satisfied with the verdict that has been returned; but, if the press is to be turned into a Court of Criminal Appeal, we shall be establishing, in place of trial by jury, a system of trial by newspaper. Never were greater precautions taken to ensure fairness than in this remarkable case; and it is now somewhat late to print letters and articles commencing with the question "Is Palmer guilty?"—a question which the only tribunal competent to reply has, after a patient investigation of many days, answered in the affirmative. Trial by jury may as well be abandoned at once if verdicts are to be made liable to reversal on the demand of newspaper correspondents and editors, the former of whom may be personal friends of the condemned criminal. There is no more reason for putting to the country the question "Is Palmer guilty?" than there would be for asking whether Brown really owes Jones the fifty pounds for which a jury may have returned a verdict any day last term in the Court of Exchequer. There is a regularly constituted Court of Criminal Appeal; there is a tribunal for the consideration of what are called Crown cases reserved, to which the legal advisers of Palmer would have had recourse if there had been any grounds for their doing so; but the endeavouring by clamour to discredit the verdict of the jury is a course which, if permitted to succeed, would supply a most inconvenient precedent. The advocates for the abolition of capital punishment are always peculiarly active when a condemned criminal is in the hands of the law awaiting the extreme penalty. None will doubt the humanity of the motives of these reformers; but in their anxiety to save life they frequently damage their own credit, by arguing, in the face of all fact and probability, against the justice of the conviction of one whose guilt has been legally declared and is morally manifest. This course weakens our confidence in the judgment of those by whom it is pursued; and, though we might pay respect to an argument in favour of the abolition of the punishment of death, we cannot attach much weight to the reasoning powers of those who endeavour to persuade us of the innocence of a clearly-proved and deliberately-convicted criminal.

The night of the Peace Rejoicings was quite an Arabian night in London, or rather every street was a sort of last scene in a pantomime. The metropolis was a perfect "fairyland," according to theatrical notions of what fairyland is like, and every illuminated house was more or less "an abode of bliss" in proportion to the amount of glare that its exterior exhibited. Even the Government offices, to which darkness and obscurity are popularly attributed, which, pursuing the pantomime allegory, would be regarded generally as "caves of despair," "abodes of gnome kings," and other underground localities in which the characters are always groping about in dismal helplessness, or plotting mischief against all the good geniuses that come in contact with them—even the Government offices were brought within the "realms of light" on the occasion alluded to. London looked like an enchanted city in which millions of wonderful lamps had contributed to the formation of an almost uninterrupted series of Aladdin's palaces. In the midst of such a scene the imagination might have had unlimited sway without fear of the intrusion of dull matter of fact, had it not been for the unfinished state of some of the illuminations, which caused the spectator to say to himself, "That work is not half done, and I must, therefore, be standing opposite one of the public offices." At the Treasury there was the framework of five gigantic letters, intended to spell the word PEACE; but at a late hour the illuminators had got no further than PE, and it seemed as if the authorities, however anxious they might have been to make PEACE, could only get within an ACE of it. To some who noticed the darkness in which the final letters were involved, the idea suggested itself which has already been put forward in some quarters, that the conclusion of Peace is not altogether so brilliant as it might have been, and that more light ought to be thrown upon it by the Government. The state of the Admiralty illumination was also characteristic of the department, for the designs were on a magnificent scale, but were only half executed when the public expectation was at its highest point, and the whole plan would probably have been carried out by the time that everybody had gone away, and the costly arrangements would be complete just as there was no further use for them. Somerset-house was dark, and would not light up at all, although the design was splendid. At the Horse Guards everything was in a backward condition on the Parliament-street side of the building, and for some time nothing more than the framework of the illumination was visible, until a ladder was placed upon a narrow ledge, and, sufficient "purchase" having been secured, a boy ascended to the top, a proceeding by which the system of promotion was, no doubt, unintentionally typified.

Here and there the idea of enchantment was dispelled by the puffing of the wind, which had blown out a portion of the Royal initials, and, in some instances, reduced the Imperial diadem to about half a crown, or deprived the Royal arms of one or more of the legs of its supporters; but the puffing of the wind was not so destructive to the fairy-like character of the scene as the puffing of some few tradesmen, who turned the illumination into the means of an advertisement; these, however, were very rare, and on the whole Fancy had her full fling in a series of random shots, some of which were most amusingly wide of the mark they were directed at. The figure of Peace was the aim of a great many, but nobody seems to have exactly hit it. In some designs she was distributing her blessings, which appeared to consist generally of very large apples, with which she was represented as pelting the Allied Sovereigns. The artistic idea of a blessing, as shown in the transparencies on the night of the illuminations, was, on the whole, remarkable for vagueness rather than variety. Peace appears to be considered as a kind of fruiterer, dealing in nothing but apples, though occasionally exhibiting in one hand a branch, which may be regarded as a branch of the business, in the form of an evergreen. In some few instances she was drawn in the character of a confectioner distributing biscuits to the nations of the earth, or throwing tea-cakes at another lady intended to represent Commerce. Britannia and the British Lion came in for their accustomed share of ill-treatment at the hands of the artists, some of whom had so roughly handled both the beauty and the beast as to have deserved six months' imprisonment for an aggravated assault on a female, as well as for cruelty to a noble animal.

That the whole of London might be a scene of enchantment, those who had no opportunity of getting into fairyland by way of the

Strand or any of the streets were invited to visit the "Gardens of Light" into which the parks were converted by means of the fireworks. Here were to be seen "pearl streamers," such as were never before met with, except in the pages of romance, or within the gardens of Vauxhall and Cremorne; with Roman candles in greater abundance than ever Puseyite churches can afford, and "six turning suns" all revolving at once with a brilliancy sufficient to throw the moon controversy into the shade for ever.

It is something new in this country for the public to rejoice at all, as a matter of business; but that the nation should show its joy with fireworks, or *avec explosion*, as the French would say, is an affair of still greater novelty. Notwithstanding the unprecedented nature of the occasion, and the rather startling strangeness of the proposition to get up a scene of enchantment in London, there was nothing so truly enchanting, and so appropriate to fairyland, as the good humour, good order, and good feeling which all classes exhibited. Everything passed off with smoothness, and very little of the "rough" element was visible.

A WALKING PHILOSOPHER.

COUNTRY NEWS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 3, 1856.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barom. at 9 A.M. 181 feet above sea level.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of Day.	Rain in Inches.	Mean Temperature of		Amount of		Mean amount of Cloud. (0-10)
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.			Wind.	Barom.	In the Night.	In the Day.	
May 28	29.428	65.6	49.2	55.6	0.670	53.5	53.6	4	6	9.5
" 29	29.813	54.1	44.9	48.3	0.005	46.6	46.0	10	7	9.0
" 30	30.065	57.3	38.8	47.5	0.000	43.8	42.5	7	7	6.5
" 31	29.834	48.3	43.1	45.8	0.040	45.2	43.3	8	8	10.0
June 1	29.529	54.4	45.6	48.9	0.329	48.7	47.9	10	8	9.7
" 2	29.640	66.5	43.3	53.7	0.017	50.4	49.7	7	7	7.0
" 3	29.823	70.8	39.1	55.4	0.000	52.2	49.9	2	2	0.6
Mean	29.733	59.6	43.4	50.7	1.061	48.6	47.6	6.9	6.4	7.5

The range of temperature during the week was 32° 0'. Showery on the 28th, fair on 29th and 30th, rain from 6 p.m. on the 31st. June 1st rainy, 2nd and 3rd fine.

The direction of the wind was—on 28th S.W., became S. at 3½ a.m., passing through W. to N.W. at 9 p.m., at 1 a.m. moved to W., and then became N.W.W., 2h. 45m. p.m. passed through W. to S. 3 p.m. became S.S.E., 3½ p.m. E.S.E., 4½ p.m. S. 4½ p.m. S.W., 4h. 35m. p.m. W., 6h. 45m. p.m. N.W., 10½ p.m. moved through N. to N.N.E.; became N.E. at 3½ a.m. on 29th, N.N.E. at 6½ a.m. N.E. at noon; was N.E. and N.N.E. all day on 30th, N.E. and E.N.E. on 31st, N.N.E. and N.N.W. on 1st June, became N.W. at 3 p.m., W. at 3½ p.m., and S.W. from 4 p.m. Oscillated between W. and S.W. on the 2nd and 3rd.

Much electricity at 7 p.m. on the 29th. 29th Weigelia rosea in flower. 30th laburnum in full flower. 28th thunder in S. at 2½ p.m.

E. J. LOWE.

THE ART TREASURE EXHIBITION.—On Monday a letter was received from the Lord Mayor of London (Mr. Alderman Salomons), requesting that he may be allowed to add his name as a subscriber of £500 to the guarantee fund—an act which we feel satisfied will be welcomed as a gratifying evidence of interest in the proposed exhibition.—*Manchester Guardian*.

FARMING ON DARTMOOR.—Mr. George Fowler, a gentleman who has successfully reclaimed a number of acres of waste land at Prince Hall, Dartmoor, is about to leave his farm. He says that he has carried out entirely the course of improvements on which he originally entered, and has shown to the world what may be done on Dartmoor. Fields which in 1847 were worth no more than from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per acre fetched on the 12th of May nearly 60s. per acre.

PEACE FESTIVITIES AT PRESTON.—On the 29th ult. the Wesleyans of this town celebrated the return of peace by giving a substantial dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding to 1392 Sunday-school teachers and children in the Corn Exchange. The building was tastefully decorated for the occasion—festoons of evergreens and flowers were suspended from the glass roof with very pretty effect; and war flags of all nations were intermingled with banners and a shield bearing inscriptions of Peace. The Wesleyan ministers of the church and their families occupied the cross-table; the chair being occupied by the Rev. Wm. Jackson. At the opposite end an arbour of evergreens and flowers had been provided as a seat for the Rev. George Scott, who presided over the joyous party. The procession, each scholar carrying a nosegay concealing a knife and fork, reached the hall at two o'clock. Hymns and anthems were sung, and prayer and benediction pronounced, and the whole was a delightful scene of rational festivity. The provision for the great feast consisted of 2000 lb. of potatoes, 360 lb. of bread, 900 lb. of beef, and upwards of 108 plum-puddings, weighing from 5 lb. to 16 lb. each.

PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY'S FARM.—On Saturday the first stone of a new school-house at the Farm School of the Philanthropic Society at Red-hill was laid by the Bishop of St. David's, in the absence of Mr. Demetz, of Methray, who had been delayed by an accident. Among those present were the Dean of Salisbury, Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. H. T. Hope, Mr. A. Beresford Hope, Mr. W. Cotton, Mr. Somers Cocks, M.P., and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; the new school-house being the gift of the latter gentleman. After the foundation ceremony Mr. Demetz arrived, and addressed the company in French. (Of the very interesting proceedings we intend to give an illustration and fuller report next week.)

THE EMPEROR AT LYONS.—The Emperor passed through all the places most visited by the inundation, and appeared greatly moved by the desolating spectacle. His Majesty did not anywhere alight, and in many places passed through very deep and rapid currents. The difficulties and even the dangers of the passage were not, however, thought of, the Emperor's attention being devoted entirely to the heartrending scene around him. The alleviation of present sufferings was, however, the immediate object of his attention; at every step the Imperial cortège was met by poor persons driven from their homes by the floods, and who pressed forward to implore relief. The police and the escort at first prevented their approach; but the Emperor ordered that they should be allowed to draw near, and not one of them went away without relief. General Niel, who rode by the side of his Majesty, had a bag filled with gold, which was liberally distributed. Everywhere during the passage of the Emperor, the cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive notre sauveur!" were raised with the greatest enthusiasm. Near the Pont du Concert, on the left bank, a poor woman approached in front of the rest, crying, "Vive l'Empereur!" when the Emperor gave her several pieces of gold, saying, "Here, my poor woman, is something for you to buy bread with." The cries and the acclamations raised by the people express but very feebly the deep feelings of gratitude and admiration excited in the breasts of the inhabitants of Lyons at the goodness of heart which dictated to his Majesty the noble idea of visiting this afflicted city. The Emperor returned to the hotel about two o'clock, and immediately a consultation was held with competent men on the measures which should be adopted to prevent a recurrence of this dreadful visitation.—*Galignani*.

THE ALSATIAN SINGERS.—The grand festival of the Alsatian singers at Strasburg commenced on Saturday last, with the arrival of thirty-nine singing societies, comprising 547 members, from various parts of France. Adding to these the 200 members of the three Strasburg societies, and the twenty members of the society of the Robertson, the whole number of singers will be 767. To lodge the foreign singers, the committee has found 143 beds in private families, and the hotels have offered 376 more; the remainder stay with their private friends.

THE ROYAL FAMILY AT BERLIN.—The Queen of Bavaria, daughter to the late Prince William of Prussia, and first cousin to the Empress, has arrived to join the Royal party. There are also present the Dukes of Oldenburg, Weimar, Nassau, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Duchess and Crown Prince and Princess of Wurtemberg. The Crown Princess of Hesse Darmstadt, likewise a daughter of the late Prince William, is also expected; so that the whole Prussian Royal family—with the exception of the Princess of Prussia, and her son and daughter—will then be assembled. The town bears an unusually animated appearance from this great influx of illustrious and distinguished strangers, whose passage to and fro, under the Linden, attracts crowds all day.

EAST INDIAN COLONY.—The Indian Government has recently had a project under consideration of some interest to seamen. To the south-east of the Bay of Bengal lies a group of islands called the Andamans. They cover an area larger than that of Suffolk, and are known to be fertile, well-wooded, and full of harbours. They belong to the British; but, for some unexplained reason, have never been occupied since they were abandoned in 1784. At present they are thinly populated by a tribe of degenerate negroes, or Malays, who are certainly wreckers, and are suspected to be cannibals. The crews of several vessels wrecked on the coast have been murdered, and the islands, which might be made ocean houses of refuge, are a nuisance in the bay. It was supposed that they were unhealthy, but the supposition has been disproved, and the Government has proposed to abate the nuisance. The matter has been referred to England; but we can scarcely imagine that the Court will refuse its consent to a measure demanded by the entire civilised world.

MEMORIAL OF BRITISH SCULPTORS.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR BENJAMIN HALL, BART.

Sculptors' Institute, 32, Sackville-street.

We the undersigned, British sculptors, feel assured that we shall not be deemed intrusive or officious in addressing the following statement to a Minister of the Crown charged with the supervision of the public monuments of the country.

We have observed with regret that frequent attempts have been lately made by the most influential organ of the daily press to disparage the ability of British sculptors, and to defend as an inevitable necessity a recourse to foreign artists. It is, moreover, reported that a large sum of money is about to be devoted to a monument to the Duke of Wellington, and another sum to a memorial at Scutari to the brave men who have fallen in the late war; and, in the present temper of the public mind, and in the disposition of some who exercise the patronage of the country, we are not without apprehension that due justice will fall to be done to the English sculptor.

We desire to guard ourselves against the imputation of an illiberal jealousy of the foreigner. Art is a universal language, and the artist should find himself a native of every great city of the world. There has never been a time when the English courts and the English people have not received with ready welcome the foreign painter, architect, and sculptor. May it be thus always. But we claim for native talent that it also should be sought for and appreciated. It is not true that there is a dearth of genius among the sculptors of England. There are works of indisputable excellence from the hands of living artists that attest the contrary. What is lamentably true is this, that means have rarely been adopted for committing public works to the men of the greatest merit amongst us. We would humbly suggest that if the patronage of the nation were exercised with more care and discrimination, and with a genuine desire to discover the worthiest on whom to bestow it, the public monuments of England would no longer be appealed to as displaying in so many instances a painful mediocrity.

None can feel more deeply than ourselves the degradation which the sculpture of England has suffered during the last fifty years from the erection in our Metropolitan Cathedral, the Abbey, and Guildhall, of the huge puerilities and distressing allegories which deface the walls of those buildings. But let it be borne in mind, that, while large sums were being lavished upon such productions as these, Flaxman and Banks were alive, needy and seeking employment. Men who were neglected year after year by the Government and the municipal authorities of that time are now the boast of every Englishman, and are acknowledged to have earned an European reputation.

To approach somewhat nearer to our own times, we would point to a fact of no little significance. A sculptor of the name of Watson recently died; he was an industrious artist, and a competitor for most of the public monuments erected in his day. He never obtained a commission; but the rejected models which he exhibited on such occasions are now sought for with avidity, and studied by living artists.

Whether the same unfortunate method of selection still attends upon us we must leave others to decide. We must observe, however, that there is an increasing indisposition amongst artists of acknowledged merit to enter into any public competition. It is felt that a proposal for a general competition is no security against an incompetent or partial judge.

To combat this indisposition, to foster the genius of the country, to secure for our greatest monuments the artists of the greatest power, we would finally submit:—1. That in every competition a public exhibition of the models of all competitors should precede the selection of any one of them; and 2. That such selection should be made by a committee so constituted that the body of artists as well as the public in general may confide in them.

To a public competition so conducted we cheerfully invite every artist resident in the United Kingdom, and we rest confident, that, patronage being liberally and wisely exercised, there will no longer be an impression abroad in this country that the English sculptor is unequal to the celebration of English heroism.

We have the honour, with great respect, to subscribe ourselves:—E. H. Baily, R.A.; P. MacDowell, R.A.; W. Calder Marshall, R.A.; J. H. Foley, A.R.A.; H. Weeks, J. Evan Thomas, F. M. Miller, Thomas Thornycroft, Alfred Hone, Timothy Butler, William Behnes, Matthew Noble, John Hancock, Alex. Munro, Edward B. Stephens, J. Sherwood Westmacott, Joseph Durham, J. Edwards, Frederick Thrupp, Edward Davis, Thomas Earle, W. F. Woodington.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

My attention has been called to an article in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of Saturday last, headed "Grand Trunk Railway of Canada." It contains numerous inaccuracies, which I beg the favour of your correcting in your next publication.

The progress of the Grand Trunk Railway is not suspended, nor has it ever been suspended for a single day. The certificates for work done by Messrs. Peto, Brassey, Betts, and Jackson, from the commencement of this year to the 1st of last month (the latest period to which the returns have been received in England), amount to £520,748, and there only remain works representing £202,053 to complete the railway (with the exception of the Victoria-bridge), from St. Thomas, 40 miles below Quebec, to Stratford, a distance of 642 miles, which, with 220 miles from the junction of the Quebec and Montreal line to Portland, makes a total mileage of 862 miles that will be in operation before the end of 1856.

The interest on the bonds issued by the Canadian Government in aid of the Grand Trunk Company will be duly paid on the 1st proximo.

The resolution read in the Legislative Assembly of Canada, by Mr. Cayley, the Inspector-General, was not drawn up in London.

Mr. Brassey is not the Vice-President of the Company, nor has he any seat at the board, as he and his partners are the contractors for the construction of the railway, and of the Victoria-bridge.

The statement of figures attributed to Mr. Cayley would make it appear as if there would be an ever-ending liability to the province of Canada, if a guarantee of five per cent on the shares were given, of £486,000 a year. One half of this amount for the first four or five years, to be recouped by the future receipts of the line, would more correctly represent the actual liability from the proposed guarantee.

The ordinary annual revenue of the province of Canada is one million and a half, and not £900,000, as will be perceived by the subjoined extract from Mr. Cayley's estimate, submitted to the Legislative Assembly of Canada, between three and four weeks ago:—

Customs	£1,200,000
Excise	21,000
Public Works	100,000
Territorial	120,000
Bank Imposts	25,500
Militia Fees, &c.	30
Fines and Forfeitures, including Seizures	5,000
Casual Revenue	30,000
Law Fee Fund, 12 Vic. caps. 63 and 64	6,500
Total	£1,502,030

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

CUSACK P. RONEY, Secretary.

[NOTE OF THE EDITOR.—The statement which our Correspondent characterises as replete with "numerous inaccuracies" is entirely based on the Parliamentary report of the speech of Mr. Cayley, Inspector-General of Canada, an office which corresponds to that of Chancellor of the Exchequer.]

THE PEACE COMMEMORATION AT PLYMOUTH.

The celebration of peace on the 29th ult. was observed in the three sister towns of Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse as a general holiday. Business of every description was suspended, all the shops and public establishments were closed, including, of course, the Government Arsenal, Custom-house, Dockyard, Royal William Victualling-yard, Gun-wharf, &c. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of merry peals from the various churches, and the public buildings and streets were gaily decorated with flags.

A meeting of the inhabitants took place about ten days previously at the Guildhall; John Kelly, Esq., the Right Worshipful the Mayor presiding; when it was determined that there should be a public display of fireworks on the Plymouth Hoe, and a subscription should be opened for defraying the cost of a Crimean Ward at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital; a committee was immediately formed, and the Mayor consented to be the chairman; and Mr. William E. Rendle was chosen as the secretary, and Mr. J. Skardon treasurer. The committee immediately set to work in good earnest, and a subscription was soon raised, amounting to from £300 to £400. All the money was subscribed and the arrangements completed in the short space of a week; and a regular holiday was enjoyed by the immense population of Plymouth and surrounding towns and district.

The review of the troops took place at noon, and comprised the following regiments:—Royal Marines, Devon Artillery, Warwick Militia, Royal Artillery, Limerick County Militia, South Devon Militia, the 94th Depot. The number of men and officers assembled was about 2500.



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION AT PLYMOUTH.—ROCKETS AND GENERAL ILLUMINATION OF THE FLEET IN THE SOUND.—FROM A SKETCH BY H. A. LUSCOMBE.

Royal salutes were fired at noon by all the ships and gun-boats in commission in the Sound and harbour, and the effect was very grand.

The day was tolerably fine—there was no rain, but the sky was heavy. The town was filled with strangers, the trains were overcrowded, the river steamers were crammed with passengers, and the turnpike-roads were filled with vehicles of all descriptions. Never was Plymouth so full, and never did such an immense concourse of people enjoy themselves so thoroughly.

But the great event of the day was yet to take place, namely, the illumination of the fleet. The Mayor had written to the Admiralty to ask them to grant an order for a grand review of the fleet to take place, but this could not be conceded; they promised, however, the chief magistrate that at nightfall the fleet should be illuminated, and there should be a display of rockets from the ships in commission and the gun-boats.

The Plymouth Hoe, of great celebrity, was the best place to see this grand sight, and it was here, too, that the fireworks were to be ex-

hibited. Consequently, towards evening, the whole of the populace *en masse* made towards this beautiful spot; and at nine o'clock, the time appointed for the illumination, there could not have been less than 60,000 or 70,000 persons present.

At nine o'clock to a minute, at one signal, the whole of the ships and gun-boats in the Sound and harbour were lighted up as if by magic, and the effect was of the most gorgeous description. It would be impossible to describe the extraordinary brilliancy of this display. The portholes were all lighted up, and blue-lights were burnt at the fore, main, and cross-jack yard-arms, spanker, and jibboom ends. At the conclusion of the illumination there was a simultaneous discharge of hundreds of rockets from all the vessels: this our Artist has attempted to portray as a record, however, of one of the finest sights ever witnessed in Plymouth.

The display of fireworks was by Mr. Lane—a very clever local pyrotechnist. The pieces were of a very grand description, and the last produced a most imposing effect. The word "Peace" was lighted up in coloured fire, with a V. R. and crown, and terminated with a grand dis-

charge of shells, roman candles, and a flight of one hundred rockets at one instant.

The town was only partially illuminated. The Royal Hotel was brilliantly lighted with gas. The grounds of Mount Edgcombe, and its noble owner's yacht, were also brilliantly lighted up with coloured fires. Royal salutes were also fired from the Earl of Mount Edgcombe's batteries at Wilderness Point, and a great number of sky-rockets were let off.

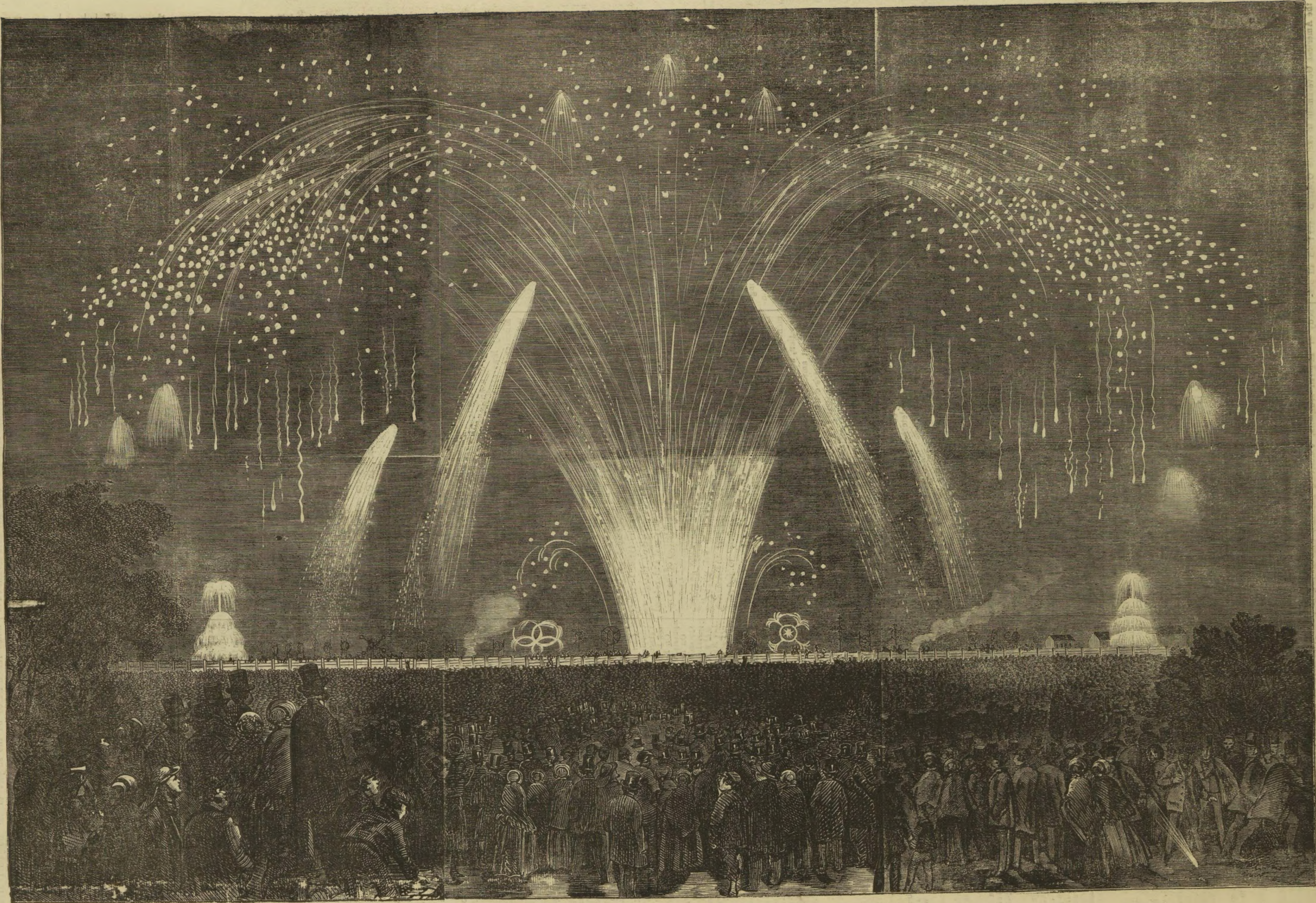
Mount View, the delightful residence of Mr. William E. Rundle, was illuminated with brilliant lights; and a great number of rockets and other fireworks were discharged from the grounds.

Fireworks were also let off at Mannamoor, accompanied by a bonfire. Bovisand was likewise illuminated, and bonfires blazed away on many of the surrounding heights.

The whole passed off exceedingly well. There was not a single accident, nor was there a single charge before the magistrates. Great credit is due to the worthy Mayor of Plymouth for carrying out all the various arrangements of the day.



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION AT PORTSMOUTH.—THE BONFIRE ON THE BEACH.



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION.—THE FIREWORKS IN VICTORIA-PARK.—(SEE PAGE 64)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, June 8.—3rd Sunday after Trinity.
 MONDAY, 9.—St. Anthony. Jerusalem besieged, 1099.
 TUESDAY, 10.—Oxford attempted to assassinate Queen Victoria, 1840.
 WEDNESDAY, 11.—St. Barnabas. Roger Bacon died, 1294.
 THURSDAY, 12.—Wat Tyler killed in Smithfield, 1381.
 FRIDAY, 13.—Battles of Naseby, 1645; Marengo, 1800; Friedland, 1807.
 SATURDAY, 14.—Battle of Saragossa, 1809.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 14, 1856.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 35	5 55	6 15	6 45	7 5	7 35	8 0
8 30	8 50	9 10	9 40	10 5	10 35	11 0

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1856.

For some weeks past our American difficulties, which many people thought so lightly of at first, have been assuming a more and more complicated and threatening aspect; and the latest accounts represent that the Government of Washington on has dismissed the British Minister. We suppose that our Government will return the discourtesy by dismissing Mr. Dallas. But the mere fact of the suspension of diplomatic relations, though it generally precedes a war, does not of necessity create one. In the present state of the question the presence of Mr. Crampton at Washington served no good purpose. Too generally Ambassadors are expensive superfluities, if they are nothing worse; for it seems to be the fatality of our English diplomatic agents, if they rank higher than Consuls, to do more harm than good, and to stir up strife instead of preventing or allaying it. There scarcely needed this last act on the part of President Pierce to show that the American Government has resolved upon steps which will completely alter the conditions of the case upon which so much diplomatic ingenuity has been lavished to no purpose. The true construction of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which we had offered to submit to arbitration, becomes unimportant in face of recent facts which utterly supersede that document. The recognition by President Pierce of Walker and his band of freebooters and "filibusters" as rulers *de facto* in Nicaragua, and the reception of Padre Vijil as their envoy and representative, at once dispose of the question as to "occupying or colonising" in Central America. General Walker and his colleagues are North Americans, subjects of the United States, and their perquisition of territory in Nicaragua and Costa Rica can only end in one way—to add, one day or other, to the stripes and stars of the Union flag. This consummation seems to be inevitable. The first irruption into the devoted territory has been successful; and under favour of the Presidential recognition the invading bands will swell to an irresistible amount—irresistible at any rate by any force which the present occupants may be able to bring against them. The population of all the Central American States does not amount to two million souls; that of Nicaragua and Costa Rica combined reach but half a million. Is it to be supposed that such a small family can successfully maintain their ground against the tide of emigration setting in from the north and west, influenced by that doctrine of "manifest destiny" which, according to the treasured creed of the governing faction of America, assigns all the territories of the New World to the federal rule? The contest is too unequal to admit of an instant's doubt or a protracted solution; and the question now is, whether England, in her zeal for vested rights and legitimacy, shall feel herself called upon to oppose with arms what she has vainly endeavoured to prevent by diplomacy? Should she do so the contest may be prolonged, but the ultimate issue will be the same.

It may be suggested that there is an intermediate course open to us which might make us participants in the fruits and advantages of the new movement, and, at the same time, moderators of the struggle and defenders of the interests of humanity; but to adopt this policy the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty must not only be abandoned, but its provisions must be reversed. But here, again, the question arises whether the present or any future Government in America would consent to our participation in a policy which the Americans consider to be exclusively American? We think not; and for this, if for no other reason, that a careful consideration of the negotiations which led to the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, and of the correspondence which has since taken place in reference to it, betrays a deliberate intention on the part of the American Government to exclude Great Britain from all pretence to such participation by the very operation of the treaty itself. What else is the meaning of Mr. Buchanan's pointed re-

ference to the Munro doctrine—that "the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered subjects for future colonisation by any European Powers?" It is true that Lord Clarendon retorted upon this declaration by stating that "it could only be viewed as the dictum of the distinguished personage who delivered it." It may be so viewed by European diplomatists; but on the other side of the Atlantic it is looked upon by a whole people as a religious ordonnance; and time may prove it to be "a great fact." Englishmen must be dull of comprehension, indeed, if they fail to perceive the drift of such a passage as the following, addressed by the same American Minister to the Foreign Secretary of her Majesty, explaining the secret motive with which the United States signed the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

Mr. Buchanan writes, May 2, 1851:—"The British statement seems to attach considerable importance to the fact—but why, it is difficult to conceive—that 'Mr. Buchanan, in his statement, observes that Ruatan was occupied in 1850 by Great Britain.' It was for the very reason that not only Ruatan but nearly the whole eastern coast of Central America, were occupied by Great Britain, that the Government of the United States were so anxious to conclude a convention requiring her to withdraw from this occupation." In anticipation of the obvious objection that this policy ought to have been avowed, and the title of Great Britain to this island "formally contested" at the time of concluding the convention in 1850, he very candidly says:—"Such a course could only have produced useless irritation. It was sufficient for them to know that Great Britain, being in occupation of it, no matter by what title, had agreed to withdraw from this occupation."

These circumstances, we think, should be sufficient to convince the people of England that if they are to maintain their own, or influence the destinies of others, in Central America, diplomacy is unequal to the task.

We are convinced that the Enlistment question was kept alive by the American Government, not for its independent merits, but in aid of the more important and ambitious schemes now in course of development in Nicaragua. We are not at all surprised, therefore, that General Pierce, having treated with neglect, almost contemptuous in character, the sundry and ample apologies which our Government has tendered for any unintentional breach, by any authorised or unauthorised agents of Great Britain, of the neutrality laws of the United States; should have expelled our Minister from American territory. Such a step, upon the whole, is not to be regretted. A total cessation of diplomatic relations is better than such relations continued in a disingenuous and unfriendly manner. Still the breach being thus once opened, though upon a comparatively indifferent matter, the quarrel may be improved at leisure, and the designs of the Monro-Walker party carried out with the less remorse or hesitation. Mr. Crampton, the latter part of whose mission has been carried out under difficulties and affronts of no ordinary character, has been charged by Mr. Clayton with misstatement as to certain admissions said to have been made by the latter in reference to our possession of the island of Ruatan, which, though we have no doubt it will eventually be satisfactorily met and refuted by our representative, adds painfully to the difficulties of the position.

In conclusion, we must warn our readers against attaching much importance to a suggestion industriously set up by a portion of the press, both in this country and in America, that these disputes are only electioneering "moves," to influence the Presidential election, and that when that is over General Pierce will silence the trumpets of alarm, cast aside his war paraphernalia as he would the "properties" of a theatre, and adjust the Enlistment quarrel, the Clayton-Bulwer differences, the Central American question, and all other subjects of unpleasantness between us, in the most amicable manner, according to accustomed diplomatic forms. We are convinced that the matter lies far deeper; and that even if this country should be driven into war, and be the victor in it—as we are certain it would be—the United States would sooner or later possess all those territories of Central America which they covet. A bold profession of warlike aspirations may aid the cause of General Pierce in his candidature for the Presidency; but the aggressive projects with which it is associated are none the less the determined and deliberately-assumed policy of the American people.

It is an old complaint against the Court and aristocracy of England—a complaint as old as the days of the Stuarts—that they prefer foreign to native genius; that the way to an encouragement from the dispensers of patronage is to be German or Italian; the way to neglect, to be native born. Though this complaint has often been unfounded and unjust, it has too often been warranted by facts. Undue preference has repeatedly been given to men of inferior talent, for no other reason, that the world could discover, than the fact of their foreign birth, added, perhaps, to their possession of such conversational abilities as rendered them welcome guests at the tables of leading aristocratic and courtly personages. There ought, in a great and free country like this, to be no objection to a man because he is a foreigner. Such an objection would be illiberal and unworthy; but, for the very same reason, though perhaps with greater force, there ought to be no objection to a man because he is not a foreigner. At the present time we have an Italian librarian for the British Museum; an Italian sculptor of no particular genius, into whose lucky hands all the most valuable commissions are thrust; and a German picture-buyer for the British nation. We have all these, not because there are no Englishmen fit to be librarians of a national institution; or to imagine and to execute noble statues; or to form correct notions of the value of works of art; but because those who have the management and control of patronage are more accessible to foreigners than they are to their own countrymen. To be a celebrated Englishman is seldom a passport to high society in England; but to be a celebrated foreigner—and celebrated in a far less degree—is an almost certain passport to the good graces, to the tables, and to the patronage of the highly-born. The great body of English sculptors, conceiving not only that disparagement has been thrown on their genius, but that they have been deprived by favouritism of the fair opportunity of gaining

their daily bread, have addressed a very temperate and dignified remonstrance on the subject to Sir Benjamin Hall in his capacity of Minister of Public Works. In this remonstrance, which we have elsewhere inserted, they state their case in a manner that is certain to enlist public sympathy and approval, though they may not convince the courtly or influential personages whose conduct is impugned; or those few journals which uniformly make success the test of merit, and write up the men whom fashion delights to honour. A dead man of genius is always highly esteemed by the English nation; but a living man of genius, unless he be a foreigner, stands a chance of being neglected, if not starved, unless he have a sufficient private fortune to raise him above the necessity of entering into the lists as a competitor in the keen struggle for subsistence. The evil is deeply rooted, and descends into lower strata of society than those which dispense patronage. It is difficult to remedy this state of things; but there is no difficulty in giving native genius an equal chance with the genius of Italy or Germany, in the manner suggested by the sculptors with reference to their own art. In addition to this, courtly and aristocratic example could do much to cure the evil which it originally caused; and it could not make a better beginning than by recognising the fact that England is not utterly devoid of painters, sculptors, and authors. The highest art never was, and never will be, recognised on commercial principles. It does not and cannot appeal to the taste of the multitude, but to something higher and better; and it is the duty of the Court and of the aristocracy, exercising the influence they do, to exercise it so as to improve, and not to degrade, the popular taste; to foster the merit which is beyond its age; and to seek out and encourage such men as only need to be sought out and properly rewarded to reflect honour on their age and country.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—The performances for the week are of a varied and interesting kind. To meet the great demand for places two additional nights have been added, so that performances will take place every night in the week except Wednesday. Monday, "Lucrezia Borgia," with Albertini and Baucardé; Tuesday, the fascinating Piccolomini; on Thursday, the united talents of Albertini and Alboni; on Friday the performance is to be of a varied character; and Saturday is reserved for an event replete with interest to the artistic world—for the first appearance of Madlle. Johanna Wagner.

THE COURT.

The Court has been extremely gay during the week. The Drawing-room in celebration of her Majesty's birthday on the 29th ultimo was followed by a State concert on the succeeding day, to which the foreign Ministers and a large party of the nobility were invited.

On Saturday the Prince Consort laid the foundation-stone of a "Strangers' Home for the Natives of India and the East and Africa," about to be erected, under the patronage of the East India Company, in the West India Dock-road. The Regent of Baden, on the same day, visited the Crystal Palace, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia called on the Ambassador of France at Albert-gate House. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert, with their illustrious guests, honoured the Royal Italian Opera (Lyceum) with a visit.

On Sunday the Queen and the Prince, with the four elder of the Royal children, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace. The Duchess of Kent, Prince Frederick William of Prussia, and the Regent of Baden, were present at the service.

On Monday the Queen and the Court, accompanied by their illustrious guests, went to lay the foundation-stone of the Wellington College.

On Tuesday the Queen held a Court, at which Lord Wodehouse, the Queen's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, had an audience of her Majesty, and took leave on proceeding to St. Petersburg. In the evening her Majesty and his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, with the Regent of Baden and Prince Frederick William of Prussia, honoured the Princess' Theatre with their presence.

On Wednesday the Queen, attended by Lady Macdonald and Major-General Bouvier, visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester House. Her Majesty afterwards took a drive, in an open landau and four, with the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert, the Regent of Baden, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia, went to Oxford University. The Royal party left Buckingham Palace soon after eight o'clock, in three carriages and four, for the terminus of the Great Western Railway at Paddington, and travelled by a special train to Oxford. The Royal party returned to Buckingham Palace at a quarter past seven o'clock. The Queen had a grand dinner in the evening.

Yesterday (Friday) her Majesty honoured the fancy dress ball of the Royal Academy of Music with her presence at the Hanover-square Rooms.

On Monday next the Court will leave town for Windsor Castle.

Lady Macdonald has succeeded the Duchess of Atholl as Lady in Waiting to the Queen; and Lord Waterpark and Major-General Berkeley Drummond have relieved Earl Somers and Sir Frederick Stovin in their duties as the Lord and Groom in Waiting.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The customary full-dress banquets in honour of her Majesty's birthday (with one exception postponed from Thursday, the 29th ult.) took place on Saturday last. The mansions of the several Ministers were illuminated, and after dinner at each of the banquets the health of her Majesty was proposed by the host, and responded to with much enthusiasm by the guests.

The Marquis of Lansdowne celebrated the event by a full-dress "reception" at Lansdowne House, for which upwards of a thousand cards of invitation were issued.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, MAY 31.—Notice is hereby given that her Majesty will hold a drawing-room at St. James's Palace, on Friday, the 26th of June, at two o'clock; and a levee at the same hour and place, on Wednesday, the 25th of June.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALFRED.—The Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park, formerly occupied by George IV., or that portion of the building which was spared when, in the reign of William IV., the greater part of this beautiful cottage was pulled down, has just been put in a fitting state for the reception of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, now in his twelfth year, in order that the young Prince may uninterruptedly pursue his studies, more particularly that portion comprising engineering, under his tutor, Lieut. Cowell, of the Royal Engineers. The establishment will be limited to merely the necessary number of servants required to attend on the Prince and his tutor.

The Regent of Baden, at present on a visit to this Court, is said to be about to form a matrimonial alliance with the Princess Royal of Prussia, sister of Prince Frederick William.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA.—On Thursday Mr. Mayall, the eminent photographer of Argyll-place, Regent-street, was honoured with a visit by his Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia. After passing through Mr. Mayall's interesting exhibition of photographs of distinguished individuals, his Royal Highness sat for a full-sized picture, and Mr. Mayall succeeded in producing a remarkably fine and characteristic likeness. It will be remembered that the photograph of the Princess Royal engraved in last week's ILLUSTRATED NEWS was also the work of Mr. Mayall.

The Countess Persigny gave a magnificent ball at Albert-gate House on Tuesday evening, which was attended by all the leading members of the fashionable world in London.

Madame d'Oxholm has left the residence of the Danish Legation in Wilton-crescent, for the Continent.

THE MARCHIONESS OF BREADALBANE'S BALL.—The Marchioness of Breadalbane gave a magnificent ball on Wednesday night, at the family mansion in Park-lane. The fête was honoured with the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, their Serene Highnesses the Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Prince Löwenstein, the corps diplomatique, and nearly a thousand members of the aristocracy.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

LONDON—luckier than Lyons—finds that the floods are subsiding. The immense crowd which surged up to town for the festivities of last week has dispersed, and the English language is again the prevalent sound in our streets, where, up to Friday last, the ear was assailed by every dialect with which the provinces can afflict it. The firework night went off very peaceably; and Sir George Grey's obliging hope that the great mass of the people would be so much amused that they would do less damage to property than usual was realised. Windows were not broken, and wherever the "roughs" essayed to create a disturbance the people reduced them to order. Everybody admits that he was disappointed with the firework display, as a whole; although there were several beautiful specimens of rockets and other aërials, and although one burst was very imposing indeed. The spectacle was felt to be long and monotonous, and every one was glad when it was over. The illuminations were in many instances fine: people who had nothing to say for the peace lit up for the Queen, and did it well. One nobleman's house was a perfect blaze—rumour states that the gas was consumed there at the rate of nine shillings per minute. But there was little originality—the star of Brunswick was everywhere exhibited, chiefly, perhaps, because the design could not be construed into anything connected with the peace. We wish we could add that there had been no accidents; but the fall of the rocket-sticks caused death in one case and blindness in several; and two unfortunate children, whose brutal parents had fastened them to a bed-post, locked them up, and gone off to the show, were burned to death. The crowds behaved very well, and the crushes were exceptional and tolerably harmless. Unlucky people who intended "to see everything," and to that end got into vans and carriages, to ride about the metropolis, were in many instances becalmed in a "jam" of other vehicles, and had excellent opportunity of seeing the effect of Friday's sunrise. But, as no one is advertised for in the second column of the *Times*, it is reasonable and satisfactory to hope that every one turned up at last. And so endeth the record of a not very satisfactory rejoicing for a very unsatisfactory pacification.

The news from America is of a mixed character. We are assured by the American press that General Pierce is a President so obstinately bent upon going wrong, for the sake of the elections, that he will do everything in his power to promote war. But, on the other hand, we are told that the real heart of American and all the mercantile influences are opposed to so wicked and ridiculous a course. And we are almost asked to keep our tempers, to let the General do his blatant canvassing, and to take as little notice as we can, for that, as soon as the fate of the elections is settled, all will be quiet again. We can perfectly well afford to take this course, if necessary; but even electioneering has its limits. Our representative, Mr. Crampton, is to be dismissed; and Walker, who has been solemnly denounced, by leading statesmen, in the American Congress, as "a buccaneer and a ruffian," has been recognised by General Pierce in a way whose hollow shuffling has called forth the derisive laughter of the whole Union. Well, we can bear even this; and unless the Costa Ricans catch Walker and hang him, which is a thing rather to be hoped than expected, we can look calmly on, and see him elevated to the rank of a hero. If such forbearance will conduce to the preventing such a crime as a civil war, in which light all who speak English must regard a war between England and America, most assuredly it is our duty to exercise it. We only hope we may be permitted to smile, should Mr. Pierce's unscrupulous manoeuvres fall after all, and his party should be suddenly prostrated by an indignant exertion of the strength of the real American people.

The unanimity and rapidity with which Palmer's jury decided on his guilt has been made known. On retiring they agreed not to discuss the question, but each juror was to write his verdict separately. Every paper bore the fatal word. We regret to see that the journals continue to publish petty details of the miscreant's behaviour and conversation; as if, like the last words of a martyr, they could be edifying to the world. His execution is fixed for Saturday, the 14th. Hired advocacy clamours for delay and reprieve; and one or two of the new lights of journalism, who take the Manchester view of war and the maudlin view of crime, plead for the poisoner in verses so bad as to be almost worthy of the theme. There is not, however, the faintest probability of a righteous example being delayed an hour beyond the time fixed; and sentimentality must look out for another criminal object of its cares. The logic of such poetry as

Why, if he is callous,
Send him to the gallows?

(we imitate, in default of quite accurate memory of the original strain) will scarcely move Sir George Grey to outrage the instinct of the nation, by sparing this villanous and cold-blooded assassin. We may add that the correspondence between Dr. Alfred Taylor and Mr. Henry Mayhew, upon the subject of the charge brought by the former against the latter, at the trial, has ended, for the present, in Mr. Mayhew being referred to Dr. Taylor's solicitors. As Mr. Mayhew disclaimed all hostile—that is to say duelling—intentions, and merely demanded the explanations not usually refused by gentlemen, the final step seems a little abrupt.

Parliament made holiday in the middle of last week, and has not done much since its reassembling. The Wensleydale Peerage affair has been settled by a compromise, which is designed to relieve the appellate jurisdiction of the Peers from some of the ridicule to which it is at present exposed. Two Peers for life are to be created, Lord Wensleydale being, of course, one, and they are to sit as Deputy Speakers of the Lords, and to hear appeals. Their salary is to be £6000 each, but they are to work for it, for the House is to be supposed to sit, in their venerable persons, at the time when the other peers are in the country or on the Continent. Some amusing discussions took place in reference to the Scotch appeals, Lord Aberdeen stating that English lawyers knew nothing of Scottish law, and among the replies being one to the effect that the Scotch knew this, but were perfectly satisfied with such a court of last resort, and, therefore, that alteration was unnecessary. Except that Lord Palmerston has indulged himself in an elaborate philippic against Greece, her King, and her people, whom he slashed into in a style that reminded one of the Don Pacifico days, and except that Mr. William Williams has been more than usually ridiculous in his cavils at expenditure, the Houses have not presented much matter for note. They counted out on Tuesday, and the list of those who were counted shows what a curious *residuum* it is that sticks to the benches on such occasions, and makes a grievance afterwards of the fact that practical men declined remaining to be unprofitably bored.

The remonstrances of the English sculptors against their expected exclusion from competition for the most important of our national memorials is at once liberal and dignified. They disclaim any of the cant about "native talent" and "foreign encroachment," upon which indignant "Englishmen," "Patriots," "British Lions," and other blockheads, descend in forcible feebleness; and they declare, at once, that art has no country, and that excellence is its test. But they avow that the excellence required in this particular department is close at hand; and that, when an English Government demands sculptural talent, it ought to ascertain whether it is not to be found in England, instead of ignoring the very existence of artists at home. This is surely sensible and reasonable. A national work should be thrown open to the competition of the whole world of art. Nothing can be better than the example that was set at Lille. A splendid new cathedral is to be erected there. The authorities drew out the most complete and workmanlike papers of instructions, in which all that an architect could require to know was stated, and they threw the thing open to the world. Designs, with sealed-up mottoes, were sent in from all parts, and the award was made in favour of an English architect, who is to build this Catholic cathedral; and the second award was a prize to the next best competitor, also an Englishman, a French architect coming in third. Let us adopt this course, and artists will no longer have reason to complain.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE STRANGERS' HOME.—On Saturday last his Royal Highness Prince Albert performed the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of an institution, partially charitable in its object, for the reception of natives of India, Arabia, Africa, China, the Straits of Malacca, the Mozambique, and the islands of the South Sea. [We shall give an illustration of this ceremony next week.]

BANQUET AT THE MANION-HOUSE.—The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a grand banquet on Wednesday evening in the Egyptian-hall to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops, several members of both Houses of Parliament, and a large number of the parochial clergy connected with the City. The Lord Mayor, in proposing "The health of Lord John Russell, and prosperity to the city of London," said there was no one who had done more service to the Church and State than the noble Lord; and he believed there was no public man who would hand down to posterity a purer name, or whose memory would be held in greater respect, as a statesman and a patriot (Applause). Lord J. Russell returned thanks; and, having referred to the great success which the city of London had conferred upon the commerce and civilisation of the world, observed that no one had ever filled the office of chief magistrate of the City with greater dignity, zeal, and efficiency than the present Lord Mayor. The city of London had enjoyed the privileges of a corporate body for many years, and there were those who thought that its rights and immunities ought to be swept away; but he ventured to express a hope that it would long remain the conservator of public charity, and that it would show that, while it was not opposed to all needful reforms, such changes would only tend to make it more in bearing with the progress of the age.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—On Tuesday last the annual general meeting of the governors and friends of this institution was held at the hospital, Charing-cross; the Marquis of Westminster in the chair. A resolution was proposed by Earl De Grey, and seconded by the Earl of Strafford, to the effect that a special fund be set apart for the perpetual maintenance of a ward to be called the Guthrie Ward, as a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Guthrie, the founder of the institution. After some little discussion relating to points of detail, the resolution, which was supported by Colonel Wood, the Dean of Hereford, Major-General Brooke, and others, was agreed to. The annual report of the committee, which was then presented, stated that the hospital had still two wards closed, and the committee were therefore obliged in many cases to refuse patients from all parts of the country. The hospital had been supported at an expense of £821 12s. 3d. for the year ending 31st December, 1855, leaving a deficiency of income for the current year amounting to £17 13s. 10d. From the year 1817 to the 1st of January, 1856, 110,641 persons had availed themselves of the benefits of this charity; 2328 had been restored to sight by operations for cataract, and the formation of an artificial pupil; the appearance of 4603 persons had been improved by the operation for the removal of squinting. 5938 persons had been admitted to the benefits of the hospital during the past year, of whom 184 were in-patients.

THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN ASYLUM.—The annual festival of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, at Holloway, was celebrated on Tuesday evening at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Duke of Cambridge occupied the chair; and the more select company at the upper end of the table included the Earl of Eglinton, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Colville, Lord Dalkeith, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Hon. Captain Murray, Colonel Mathison, Colonel Moncrieff, Sir A. Alison, Mr. P. Robertson, M.P.; Mr. D. Baird, M.P.; Sir G. Clerk, Bart.; Sir J. Ord, and a number of Highland gentlemen arrayed in their gay national costume. His Royal Highness, in proposing the "Army and Navy," bore strong testimony to the great merits of Sir Colin Campbell as a warrior, and especially eulogised the gallantry of the Highland regiments in the Crimea, who marched up the heights of Alma as if merely going to parade. The Duke of Wellington returned thanks for this toast. The boys and girls of the asylum were then introduced amid a deafening flourish of bagpipes; they included the children of slain Crimean soldiers (some of them belonging to the Duke's own regiment), and, on the entrance of the latter, a roll of muffled drums was very significantly commanded. His Royal Highness strongly urged the claims of the charity upon the public. The subscriptions amounted to about £800.

THE PRINTERS' ALMSHOUSES.—The new Asylum at Wood-green, Tottenham, will be opened on the 11th instant, on which occasion there will be a public breakfast, at which Earl Stanhope, who laid the foundation-stone, will preside. We trust, however, now that this much-needed asylum has been completed, and the difficulties which have hitherto retarded its progress are all removed, that it may be vigorously supported.

THE ASHBURNHAM AMERICAN FLOWER SHOW.—The private view of this extensive collection of American plants took place on Wednesday, in the vast pavilion erected in Ashburnham-park, adjoining the Royal Cremorne-gardens; and, even in these days, when collections of a very second-rate character are dignified by the name of "flower shows," the spirited effort of Mr. Simpson, and of the Messrs. Waterer and Godfrey, of Knap-hill, must be pronounced triumphant. The exhibition consists of a fine display of rhododendrons and azaleas, of every variety of form and colour, arranged with great taste in a pavilion 365 feet long and 95 feet wide. Some of the standard rhododendrons are of great age and size, and such are rarely to be seen. The late Mr. Michael Waterer was the first to introduce these beautiful plants, and, therefore, the perfection of the fully-developed plants may be accounted for. The exhibition has been thrown open to the public, and the lovers of flowers will here find one of the greatest treats that London has afforded for many years. Among the more distinguished guests at the private view were Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg, the Duchess of Sutherland, the Countess of Derby, the Countess Vane, Lady Hardinge, Lady Wiltoughby, Lady G. Bathurst, Lady Belcher, Lady Overstone, Lady Mary Clive, Lady Beauclerk, Lady Anstruther, &c.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—A meeting, adjourned from Kendall's Hotel, was held at the London Tavern on Monday last. Mr. David Chinery in the chair, which was attended by some very stern advocates; and, after some deliberation, resolutions were passed, and a committee formed, for the formation of a National Society for Total Abolition of Capital Punishment by Death.

INSTIGATION TO SUICIDE.—An inquest was held on Tuesday at the Eight Bells, Cross-street, Blackfriars, respecting the death of a woman whose name was unknown. The particulars of the case appeared in our last publication. The deceased jumped from London-bridge into the Thames on the morning of the 27th ult. She was with a man named William May, and one of the witnesses heard the man say, "Jump over, and I will follow you." The deceased did so, and was drowned. She was intoxicated at the time, and May appears to have been so also. The jury returned the following verdict: "That the deceased woman committed an act of *felo de se*, and that William May was an aider and abettor to the act."

FIREWORKS AT WOOLWICH.—The remnants of the fireworks exhibited in London are returning to Woolwich in waggon-loads night and day. As soon as the whole has been cleared away no time is to be lost in refitting for the entertainment to be given on Woolwich-common. The authorities have not yet fixed upon the day when the Woolwich festival will take place. The scale of grandeur will be equal to the exhibition in either of the London Parks, in all its variety, with the exception of an unimportant reduction in the standing pieces there exhibited. The laboratory department is then to be reduced to the ordinary peace establishment. Consequently upwards of 300 men and boys have received notice of discharge.

THE PARKS ON SUNDAY.—In the Regent's-park last Sunday afternoon a band of thirty performers, conducted by Mr. F. Pierce, played from four to six o'clock p.m. From 30,000 to 40,000 people were present, among whom were Sir John Shelley, M.P., Sir Joshua Walsley, M.P., Sir H. Halford, M.P., Mr. Williams, M.P., &c. The greatest order and decorum prevailed, and the band upon their arrival and departure were greeted with loud and general cheers. The public promenade in Hyde-park and Kensington-gardens assumed its ordinary Sunday appearance on Sunday last. There was no attempt at music by a private band, as on the previous Sunday, nor any disturbance whatever. The weather was remarkably fine, and great numbers of people, including a large proportion of the higher classes, thronged the walks along the Serpentine and in the gardens, but no circumstance occurred to interrupt the common enjoyment, and the excitement consequent on the withdrawal of the music seemed, in Hyde-park at least, to have passed away.

STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.—Some time since we took occasion to draw the attention of our readers to the difference in the crimes of these three partners in the late banking concern, showing that Sir John Paul and Mr. Strahan were the actors in the disgraceful transactions, and shared in the expectations of the profits, while Mr. Bates was absent during the time their crimes were committed; and also that, in point of fact, Mr. Bates was a salaried clerk, although nominally a partner. We suggested that there was a wide distinction between the parties. We are now happy to learn that this distinction has been acknowledged by the Home-office, and that the memorial presented on behalf of Mr. Bates having been referred to the Judge who tried the case, Baron Alderson, it has been intimated to the friends of Mr. Bates that the difference between his position and that of his partners has been recognised, and that a mitigation of punishment may be looked for in his case, although his immediate release from captivity cannot be expected. Sir J. Paul, together with Mr. Bates, is at Pentonville; Mr. Strahan in one of the convict prisons near London; and it is thought, when these two are sent to their final destination, that the clemency of the Crown will be extended to Mr. Bates, and his liberation kept place.—*Dublin Post.*

WATERLOO-BRIDGE COMPANY.—The half-yearly assembly of the proprietors was held Thursday at the Freemasons' Tavern; William Anderson, Esq., in the chair. The report of the committee to the general assembly of proprietors stated that the amount of tolls received for the half year ending 23rd July last amounted to £9545 8s. 2d.; while for the corresponding year it amounted to £9124 2s. 11d., showing an increase of £421 6s. 3d. There had been a further increase both on horse and foot tolls since February last to the extent of £205 2s. 2d. At the last general assembly the committee had reported that after the payment of current charges and expenses, &c., and the payment of a dividend of 4s. in the pound, there remained a balance of £1690 8s. 4d.; and they had now to report, that after payment of current disbursements, providing for the interest on the company's bond debts, and making a dividend of 4s. in the pound, in February last, there remained a balance of £1094 10s. 6d. The statement of accounts showed a cash balance in reserve—a balance in favour of the company—of £1094 10s. 6d. The report having been agreed to unanimously, Mr. James Bird rose, and, in allusion to a circular from the chairman, annexed to that by which the meeting was convened, on the subject of a proposal which was to be brought under consideration for offering some special mark of the sense entertained by the directors of Mr. Powell's long and meritorious services, said, that having regard to the limited interest which he had in this concern, when compared with that of many other gentlemen present, it might seem invidious on his part to initiate the subject matter to which the chairman had called the attention of the meeting; if he had not been otherwise qualified, from his knowledge of circumstances for the last twenty-five years, and having been a proprietor twenty-four years, and having attended every meeting except one. He, therefore, felt himself somewhat qualified to make a proposition to this meeting in which he hoped they would all fully accord. He felt assured the proprietors would readily assent to it. After some few introductory remarks explanatory of the commencement of Mr. Powell's services from the year 1806 to the present time, the hon. gentleman concluded by moving the following resolution, which being seconded by Sir John Rennie, who spoke of having known Mr. Powell since he (Sir John) was a boy, was carried with acclamation:—"That the sum of 100 guineas be contributed towards a subscription for the purchase of a piece of plate, to be presented to Mr. George Powell, as a mark of the high sense entertained by the proprietors for his able and valuable services as their chief clerk and surveyor, and for the indefatigable zeal and attention evinced by him on all occasions in promoting the interests of the company during the period of fifty years." Several of the directors and proprietors addressed the meeting, approving of the resolution, and spoke in high terms of the conduct of Mr. Powell.—H. Ingram, Esq., M.P., expressed himself dissatisfied with the smallness of the sum proposed to be contributed, having reference to the lengthened and important services rendered by that gentleman, and hoped that the subscriptions would amount to at least £1000.—Mr. James Bird said he was equally alive to the fact of the smallness of the testimonial, but he would remind the meeting that it was the principle which was involved, not the amount of value of the testimonial.—A conversation ensued, in which it was understood that the directors and proprietors in their individual capacities contemplated increasing the amount by private subscriptions.—Mr. Powell assured the gentlemen present that their kindness had overwhelmed him; and he deeply felt the force of the saying that gratitude required a language of its own—his common words and sentiments were not sufficiently adequate to convey the feelings of a heart like his own, which was overflowing with gratitude. He proceeded to give interesting details connected with the bridge, from the moment such a bridge was contemplated; and stated that when in company with Sir J. Yorke and the great Canova, on the bridge itself, Canova observed that whether he contemplated that bridge with reference to the boldness of its design, or the execution of the work, the structure was one which was second to none in the world. For himself he observed that it was a matter of pride to him that during his long connexion of half a century with this company, he had never made a single enemy; but had, on the contrary, made many valuable and influential friendships and acquaintances—more than commonly fell to the lot of any man in his sphere of life (Loud applause).—A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors was carried unanimously. Mr. Powell received the hearty congratulations of the gentlemen present; and the meeting then adjourned to the first Thursday in December.

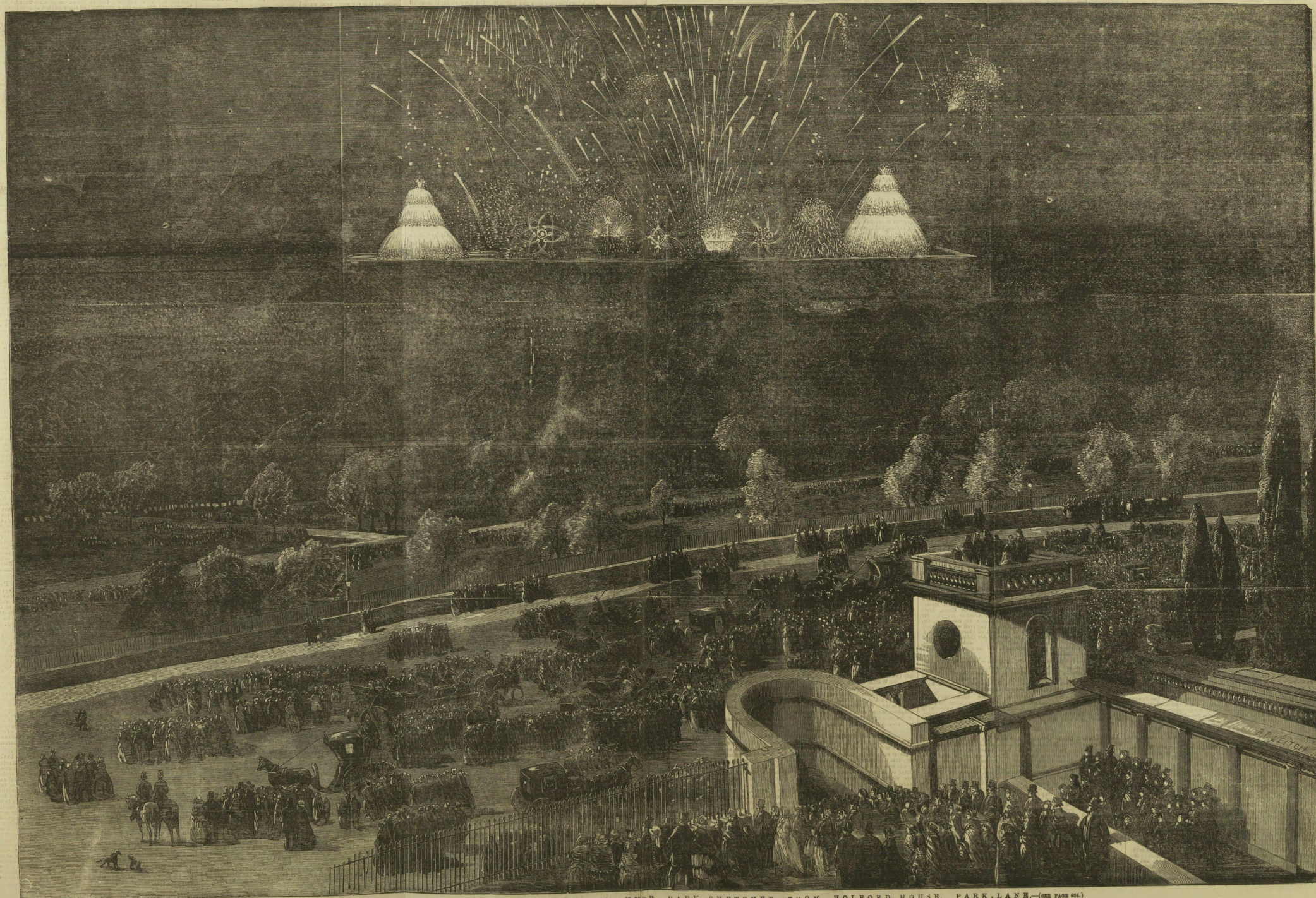
PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—On Thursday a meeting of the Royal National Life Institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi; Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. The silver medal of the institution was presented to Captain Norcock, R.N., Inspecting Commander of the Coast Guard; and also to Thomas Henwood, Coast Guard man, and Richard Johns, seaman, in testimony of their very gallant conduct in putting off at the imminent risk of their lives in a small punt to the rescue of one of the crew of the schooner *Endeavour*, of Ipswich, which, during a gale of wind, was wrecked near the Gribbon rocks, on the Cornish coast, on the 6th ult. A reward of £8 10s. was also voted to the crews of two boats for their praiseworthy conduct in rescuing four out of eight of the brig *Reform*, of Belfast, which during equally squally weather was wrecked near Shark's-head, on the coast of Galway. A reward of £2 was likewise voted to a boat's crew of four men in consideration of their laudable services to the crew of five men of the brig *Philippa*, which, during a heavy gale of wind, was wrecked at the mouth of the River Dee. A reward of £3 10s. was also voted to the crews of two Margate boats for putting off with the view of rescuing two men who were upset, by being struck with heavy seas, from a boat near the harbour of that place. The two poor fellows had, however, unhappily perished before assistance could reach them. Other similar rewards were likewise voted. The institution had now about fifty life-boats, in a most efficient state, and ready for instantaneous service.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the first week in May the deaths registered in London rose to 1154; during the following weeks they have shown a constant decrease, and in the last week of the month, which ended on Sunday, they were 1027. In the week preceding that on which the mortality rose the mean weekly temperature had fallen to 41.3 deg.; in three subsequent weeks it rose to 44.3 deg., 51.2 deg., and 53.1 deg.; and last week it was 53.3 deg. In the corresponding weeks of the last ten years, 1846-55, the average number of deaths was 952, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1047. The number, as shown by the present returns, is, therefore, less than, but not materially different from, the estimated amount. The number of births registered in the week was 1578; and there was an excess of 551 in the number of persons born as compared with those who died. The oldest person recorded in the returns of deaths is a widow who lived in Battersea, and had attained the age of ninety-four years.—*Registrar-General's Report.*

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY AT THE POST-OFFICE.—The Postmaster-General having decided to grant a half-holiday on Saturdays to the officers of the General Post-office, so far as the indulgence can be afforded without inconvenience to the public, the several offices which are not immediately connected with the receipt and delivery of the mails will be closed at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The money-order offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand and Sherborne-lane will also be closed at the same hour. The arrangement commences this day, the 7th instant.

THE PROVINCIAL SWELL MOB IN LONDON.—On Wednesday morning a gentleman named Smith, a marine commission agent, from Liverpool, gave information to the Police Commissioners respecting the arrival of nearly the whole of the provincial swell mobsmen in London by the Great Northern and other railways during the last few days. It appears, from what transpired at the Marlborough-street Police Court, on a charge of pocket-picking, at the West-end, that the magistrates and police of Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, and various important manufacturing towns, had recently been engaged in hunting the swell mob from their usual haunts in consequence of the late daring robberies, which were of nightly occurrence. The authorities, with great energy, set to work, and, aided by the local police, several of the most desperate of the gang were apprehended, and sent to gaol for long periods of imprisonment for their unlawful depredations. The determination of the magistrates became known to the principal members of the fraternity, who called a meeting, at which it was unanimously agreed to proceed to London for a few months for "a change of air, and to visit the metropolitan wonders." The chief portion of the fraternity arrived in town on Thursday last in time to witness the illuminations and the fireworks in the Parks, where they reaped a rich harvest, and gave a due account of their successes.

MR. DUNN AGAIN.—Mr. Dunn, the person so well known to the public in connection with his pertinacious pursuit of Miss Burdett Coutts, the wealthy heiress, made his appearance in Marlborough-street Police Court on Wednesday, and, addressing Mr. Bingham, the sitting magistrate, said he wished to make a complaint of a very painful and lengthened nature against a lady residing within the jurisdiction of this court, Miss Burdett Coutts. His charge against the lady was, that for a series of years she had persecuted him in every conceivable way, had got him turned out of eleven different lodgings, and, lastly, had caused him to be pursued by a lunatic fresh from a lunatic asylum, armed with a loaded bludgeon, and, lastly, had entered into a conspiracy with his present landlord and landlady to get him turned out of his Pimlico lodgings. It was this last piece of persecution which had induced him to come forward and to ask the magistrate to grant him a warrant or summons against the lady in question.—Mr. Bingham, who appeared to be quite aware of the antecedents of the unsuccessful fortune-hunter, said, as the alleged persecution had occurred in Pimlico, that place being out of his district, the application must be made to the Westminster Police Court.—Mr. Dunn insisted that this court was the proper tribunal to apply to, as he was sure the lady resided within the jurisdiction of the court, and having argued the point at some length concluded by asking for a warrant or summons.—Mr. Bingham: I decline to issue either.—Mr. Dunn (angrily): Then I'll have a criminal information against you.—The applicant then quitted the court in high dudgeon.



THE PEACE COMMORATION.—THE FIREWORKS IN HYDE PARK—SKETCHED FROM HOLFORD HOUSE, PARK LANE.—(SEE PAGE 604.)

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY, MAY 30.

The motion for going into Committee on the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill gave rise to a preliminary conversation, in the course of which various comments and explanations touching the operation and working details of the measure were offered by Lord Donoughmore, the Earl of Bessborough, Lord Campbell, Lord Redesdale, the Earl of Wicklow, Lord St. Leonards, the Marquis of Clanricarde, and other Peers. The motion was then agreed to, and the bill passed through Committee, a provision being added limiting the duration of the measure to five years.

The Appellate Jurisdiction (House of Lords) Bill was read a second time, on the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, and after some considerable discussion.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY, MAY 30.

THE MILITIA.—On the motion that the House on rising should adjourn until Monday, Colonel GILPIN called attention to the conditions under which the militia regiments were to be disembodied, and the various amounts of bounty, pay, and allowance which the Government had granted to the paymasters and noncommissioned officers of that service. He contrasted the conduct pursued towards the militia with the terms proposed to the men and officers of the several foreign legions, and complained that the foreigners were treated much better than the Englishmen.—Complaints of similar tenor were urged by Colonel DUNNE and other members, and elicited a reply from Mr. F. PEEL, who explained in detail the regulations provided for the disembodiment both of militia regiments and the foreign legions, and justified the principles on which the War-office had arranged the terms offered in the several cases.—The subject was resumed, and pursued for some time, and a further explanation given by Lord PALMERSTON. Ultimately the conversation ceased, and the motion was agreed to.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BILL.—On the motion for going into Committee on the Cambridge University Bill, Mr. BOUVIER explained the nature and motives of the change which the bill was designed to effect in the constitution of Cambridge University. In these changes the model set by the Act relating to Oxford was chiefly followed, an elective senate being proposed, by which body internal reforms could be originated, and a new curriculum of education framed more accordant with the wants and ideas of modern society. Private halls to which Dissenters were admissible were also sanctioned by the measure, but their establishment would be left to the discretion of the several colleges.—Mr. WALPOLE, without opposing the measure, argued that the faults and deficiencies charged against Cambridge University were much exaggerated. Remarking upon the large improvements accomplished during the last thirty years, by the internal action of the University itself, and citing many names of distinguished men who had received their education within its walls, he urged the expediency of leaving the colleges, as far as possible, unhampered by any interference, and free to carry out the reforms which had been so well begun. The bill, he argued, should be rendered permissive rather than enactive.—Mr. POLLARD URQUHART supported the bill.—Mr. HEYWOOD remarked upon the antiquated origin and obsolete design of various collegiate endowments.—Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE expressed a high admiration of the principles on which the existing system of university education was based.—After a few words from Mr. WIGRAM, the House resolved itself into Committee on the bill, and proceeded to discuss the amendments proposed in its successive clauses. Upon reaching clause 26, further progress was suspended, and the Chairman ordered to report progress.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Fire Insurance Bill was read a third time and passed. Several bills on the table were forwarded a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.—In reply to a question from Mr. ROEBUCK, Lord PALMERSTON said that no commission had been appointed by the Paris Conference to inquire into the present position of Moldavia and Wallachia, but each of the Powers had appointed parties to make inquiry for its own satisfaction; but he could not lay the report of the British Commissioners on the table, for it might never be acted upon in any way.

STATE OF GREECE.—On the order of the day for the House resolving itself into a Committee of Supply—Mr. J. MACGREGOR called attention to the state of Greece in reference to its debt, and to the system of brigandage which prevailed throughout the country, calling for the interference of the other Powers, and asked if it was the intention to resort to energetic measures, and send King Otto back to his original position of a petty German Prince, and give to the people the benefit of an honest Government?—Lord PALMERSTON said he was sorry that brigandage was not put an end to by the occupation of Greece by French and English troops. The fact was that the executive Government, ever since the accession of King Otto, had sought to get rid of the check of constitutional government by indirect means. It was, nevertheless, difficult to act with a view to the enforcement of the debt, for the guaranteeing Powers could only act together, and not singly.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and the Civil Service Estimates were proceeded with.

STATUTE LAW COMMISSION.—The vote of £1911 for the salaries and charges of the Statute Law Commission led to some considerable discussion, its mode of procedure having been impugned by Mr. WATSON and other hon. and learned members, who contended that its first duty should have been to repeal all obsolete and sleeping statutes; while it was, on the other hand, ably defended by Sir F. KELLY, who said that some of the results of its labours would be shortly laid upon the table in the shape of bills, which would be rapidly followed by others until the object in view should be accomplished. Ultimately the Committee divided, and the vote was carried by a majority of 70 to 54.

Some other votes having been agreed to after discussion, the House resumed, and

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Sir J. FERGUSON resumed the adjourned debate on the second reading of the Parochial Schools (Scotland) Bill, which he supported, contending that the bill of the Lord Advocate was very much misunderstood in Scotland, or it would not have met with the opposition which it had experienced.—Mr. C. BRUCE said he would say "no" to the second reading of the bill, but he would not divide the House upon it in its present stage. Unless some very serious alteration was, however, made in its provisions he would oppose its going into Committee.—Mr. BLACK supported the bill. After some further discussion the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION BILL.—On the motion for going into Committee on the Appellate Jurisdiction (House of Lords) Bill, the Earl of ABERDEEN complained that the measure made no provision for the more satisfactory determination of appeals from Scotland. The appellate jurisdiction, now exercised by the House, was an usurpation as far as Scotland was concerned, and he believed that the only effectual remedy which could be applied would be to remove this business from the House of Lords, and to constitute in Scotland one great Court of Appeal.—The Earl of DERBY defended the recommendation of the commissioners, and stated that the removal of the Scotch appeals from the House of Lords would be most unpopular in Scotland.—After some further discussion, the House went into Committee. The bill passed through Committee, and, with a few verbal amendments, was reported to the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

In the Commons there was no sitting, only thirty-eight members being present at four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

TENANT RIGHT (IRELAND) BILL.—The second reading of the Tenant Right (Ireland) Bill was moved by Mr. G. H. MOORE, who briefly enforced the necessity of providing some legislative means for interposing between the legal rights of landlords and tenants in the sister kingdom.—The motion was seconded by Mr. MAGUIRE, and a division, being at once taken, the motion was carried by a majority of 88 to 59.—The bill was then read a second time, and ordered for committee on Wednesday next. The Scientific and Literary Societies Bill was committed *pro forma*.

DISSENTERS' MARRIAGE BILL.—The Dissenters' Marriage Bill was passed through Committee after a prolonged discussion on some of the working clauses, and the insertion of a clause by which it is provided that notices of marriage must be posted outside of the registrar's office.

The adjourned debate on the motion for going into Committee on the Joint-Stock Bank Bill was resumed by Mr. VANCE, but at a quarter to six the hon. member was obliged to suspend any further observations, and the discussion stood adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

The Royal assent was given by Commission to the following bills, viz.:—Annuities (No. 2); Bankers' Composition; Fire Insurances; Lambeth Water; and to several private bills.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the first reading of four bills recommended by the Charity Commissioners appointed to inquire into the operation of certain long-established charities. The bills were read a first time.

The Earl of HARDWICKE said that an announcement had been made by a paper supposed to be in the confidence of the Government to the effect that Mr. Crampton, the British Minister at Washington, had received his dismissal by the United States' Government. He wished to know whether her Majesty's Ministers could give any information on the subject?—Earl GRANVILLE replied that the Government had not received any official communication respecting it.

The Hay and Straw Trade Bill was read a second time. The Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Appellate Jurisdiction Bill was reported with amendments.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE inquired whether it was intended to lay upon the table copies of the papers submitted by Sardinia to the Paris Conference upon the affairs of Italy?—Lord CLARENDON said the papers would be presented shortly, but at present discussion upon the subject would be premature. It would, however, be necessary before the close of the Session to have a discussion upon the affairs of Italy. He might add that both France and Austria were willing to withdraw their forces from the Roman States.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.—Sir E. B. LYTTON gave notice that on the motion for adjournment to-morrow he should ask Lord Palmerston a question in reference to our present relations with America.

TENANT-RIGHT BILL.—Mr. STAFFORD asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether the Government intended to propose any amendments in the Tenant-right (Ireland) Bill; and, if so, whether they would place them on the notice paper before Wednesday next, on which day the bill stands for Committee?—Mr. HORSMAN said that Government thought it would be useless to go into Committee on the bill; and if on Wednesday next the hon. member for Stafford would move that the House do go into Committee on the bill that day six months, he would have the support of her Majesty's Government.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.—Mr. DISRAELI wished to ask the noble Lord at the head of the Government whether it was true that her Majesty's Minister at Washington had quitted that capital at the request of the President of the United States, and whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to make any statement as to the relations between the two countries?—Lord PALMERSTON said he had received information indirectly of the fact to which the right hon. gentleman referred. He believed that Mr. Crampton had received his passports, and had quitted Washington for Toronto. There had been nothing received from him as yet, and he (the noble Lord) had no further statement at present to make.

EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. S. HERBERT called the attention of the House to the education and instruction of officers in the Army. He said that in the estimates just presented there had disappeared for the first time a charge for the purpose of the education of officers. He thought it highly desirable that officers, regimental and on the staff, should have an opportunity of improving themselves in the higher qualifications of their profession. The country had an opportunity of creating a peace establishment which would be free from the vices which characterised the peace establishment hastily formed at the close of the last great war. At that time there was great hostility to the Army, which had been used as a police force; and he agreed with the late Duke of Wellington, who said, "Depend upon it the only way to maintain an army in this country is to keep it out of sight." At present we had great facilities of carrying out the object to which he intended asking the assent of the House, in consequence of the great popularity of the Army. He believed this country could never have a standing army so large as the military nations of Europe, and he never wished to see it; but he thought the country might make up for its numerical inferiority by high scientific attainments, and this could only be done by giving officers facilities for obtaining the highest order of instruction. He had complained of the omission of one thing—he now complained of the adoption of a regulation which he could not too strongly condemn—namely, that of making War-office clerks inspectors of regimental schools, instead of intrusting that duty to military men (Hear, hear). The right hon. gentleman then proceeded at some length to describe the details of a plan for the instruction and examination of candidates both for commissions and promotions in the Army, which he was desirous of seeing adopted.

Mr. F. PEEL made a speech in favour of his improved system of education. A commission of three eminent gentlemen had been appointed by the War Department to inquire into the whole subject. They were to visit the different countries of Europe in pursuance of their inquiries. He, therefore, trusted that no plan would be adopted until that commission had made their report.

Mr. ELLICE expressed his general concurrence with the views of Mr. Herbert.

Sir DE LACY EVANS said he thought that the tone of the Under Secretary for the War Department was not very cheering for the acceleration of an improved military education. He hoped that the Government, before the close of the Session, would be prepared to submit a plan to the House.

Col. DUNNE spoke to the same effect, as did also Mr. Rich, Lord Hotham, and Lord Goderich.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted that the system of education for officers in the Army was defective, and that it was both the duty and the desire of the Government to turn their attention to the subject. In doing so the proposals which had been put before the House by Mr. Herbert should be well considered.

The subject then dropped, and the House went into Committee of Supply, and was occupied during the remainder of the night by the consideration of various civil service votes.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.—Rectories: The Rev. C. B. Rodwell to Freshford, near Bath; Rev. J. W. Eagleton to Swayfield, Lincolnshire; Rev. S. Williams to Redlynch. **Vicarages:** The Rev. G. Fisk to Great Malvern, Worcestershire; Rev. G. Wintour to Rampton, Nottinghamshire. **Incumbency:** The Rev. G. F. de Gex to Christ Church, Frome.

THE OXFORD COMMEMORATION.—The proceedings at Oxford on Wednesday last were of a more interesting character than on most former occasions. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, with the Prince of Prussia and the Prince Regent of Baden, reached Oxford by special train on Wednesday morning at 9.45. They proceeded to Worcester College, the residence of Dr. Cotton, the Vice-Chancellor. Having been received in due order by the Vice-Chancellor, the entire party repaired to the hall of Worcester College, where they were met by the resident noblemen and other dignitaries of the University. On entering the Sheldonian Theatre the party was received with deafening cheers. The Chancellor opened the Convocation first by giving a short programme of what was to take place; he then stated that one of the chief objects of the meeting was to present with diploma degrees of Doctor in Civil Law the two illustrious and noble Princes who had honoured the University with their presence, placing in their hands at the same time the forms of diploma, sealed with the large University seal, contained in a gold box. He next read over the names of the distinguished individuals who were to be honoured with the same degree *honoris causa*. They were Musurus Bey, Turkish Minister; Count von Bernstorff, Prussian Minister; Lord Abercorn, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Elgin, Lord Ashburton, Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Rear-Admiral Dundas, Dr. Henry Holland, Major General Sir Harry D. Jones, Dr. Sandwith, Dr. Barth. All the names on the foregoing list were received with loud and lengthened cheers, especially those of the Earl of Clarendon, Sir Edmund Lyons, and Sir R. Dundas. The names of Sir Colin Campbell and Sir W. Williams of Kars were also received with acclamation, though, unfortunately, they had not returned to the shores of England in time for the ceremony.

THE CHARITY CHILDREN AT ST. PAUL'S.—Thursday morning, according to annual custom, the children connected with the various metropolitan charity schools attended at St. Paul's Cathedral. Full choral service was performed in the body of the Cathedral, round which raised seats were erected, the general congregation occupying the floor. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Lincoln.

TESTIMONIALS.—We are requested by the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Gabriel's Church, Fimlico, to contradict the statement made in our last week's impression under this head in reference to the presentation of testimonials to the Rev. B. Belcher and Mrs. Belcher, the same being wholly untrue and without foundation.

ST. CLEMENT DANES CHARITY SCHOOLS.—On Thursday the 156th anniversary of this excellent institution—one of the oldest charities of its class in the metropolis—was celebrated by a dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern; Mr. S. H. Twining in the chair. After the customary loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the children of the schools walked round Freemasons' Hall, when their neat and orderly appearance and demeanour elicited loud approbation; two addresses, written for the occasion, were then spoken by two of the male scholars; and the chairman, in a well-timed address, proposed "Prosperity to the St. Clement Danes Charity Schools," which was drunk with enthusiasm. Among the other toasts drunk was "The Clergy of St. Clement Danes," for which the Rector, the Rev. M. Mason, thanked the company in an address in which he ably urged the value and importance of this long-established charity in the thickly-peopled parish. Mr. R. Twining proposed "The House of Commons and Mr. Herbert Ingram, M.P. for Boston," for which that gentleman returned thanks; and, several other toasts having been given, the company separated after a very agreeable festival. In the course of the evening subscriptions and donations to the charity to a considerable amount were received. The musical arrangements, by Mr. Genge, gave great satisfaction.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.—The Reverend James Tyley, Rector of Great Addington, has left to the Society for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy of Northampton, £200; to the poor of Great Addington, £200; to the poor of Raunds and Streathay, £100 to each parish. William Jones, Esq., formerly of Springhill, Stafford, late of Morla Lodge, Flintshire, has bequeathed to the Wolverhampton Infirmary, £100; General Hospital, Birmingham, £100; and to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Edgbaston, £100.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR F. G. FOWKE, BART.

SIR FREDERICK GUSTAVUS FOWKE, Bart., of Lowesby, in the co. of Leicester, was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Fowke, Knt., Groom of the Bedchamber to Henry, Duke of Cumberland, by his wife Anne, second daughter and co-heiress of Sir Isaac Woolaston, Bart., of Lowesby. He was born in Jan., 1782, and was created a Baronet the 7th Feb., 1814. He married, in Oct., 1815, Mary Anne, only daughter and heiress of the late Anthony Henderson, Esq.; by whom he had issue five sons and two daughters. Of the sons four survive, and the elder daughter is the wife of the Rev. William Lancelot Rolleston. Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, who was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, and a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire, died at Leamington on the 17th ult. He is succeeded by his eldest son, now Sir Frederick Thomas Fowke, the second Baronet, who is married to Sarah Mary, youngest daughter and co-heiress of the late Henry Leigh Spencer, Esq., of Bansted Park, Surrey, and has issue.

THE REV. H. J. HARE.

THE Rev. Humphrey John Hare, of Docking Hall, in the county of Norfolk, was the eldest son of the Rev. Edward Hare, whose former name was Christian, but who assumed the surname of Hare, in compliance with the will of his kinswoman, Mrs. Catherine Henley, the only child of the Hon. and Rev. Hugh Charles Hare, younger son of Henry, second Lord Coleraine. The Rev. Humphrey John Hare inherited the Docking estate on the death of his father, in 1807. He previously held a living in Cumberland. He was first cousin to the late John Christian, Esq., of Unerigg Castle, Cumberland, who was Dempster in the Isle of Man, an office which had been held by members of that family for more than 400 years. On his mother's side Mr. Hare was descended from the Bassets, and from this connection his father laid claim to the extinct title of Baron de Dunstanville. Mr. Hare married, first, in 1801, Mary, youngest daughter of Thomas Pattenson, Esq., of Melmerby Hall, Cumberland, by whom he has had issue a daughter, Frances Mary, and a son, Humphrey John Hare, Esq., of Bramhope Hall, Yorkshire, Captain in the West York Militia. The Rev. Mr. Hare married, secondly, in 1818, Barbara, youngest daughter of the Rev. James Mayo, of Wimborne Minster, Dorset, by whom he leaves a numerous family. Mr. Hare died on the 30th April.

LORD CAREW.

THE Right Hon. Robert Shapland Carew, K.P., Baron Carew, in the county of Wexford, in the Peerage of Ireland, and Baron Carew of Castleboro', in the same county, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, was the only son of Robert Shapland Carew, Esq., of Castleboro', by his wife, Anne, daughter and heiress of the Rev. Dr. Richard Pigott, of Dysart, in the Queen's County. He was born the 9th March, 1787. He was first returned to Parliament for Wexford in 1812, and he continued to represent that county for more than twenty years. He was raised to the peerage of Ireland the 13th June, 1834, and to that of the United Kingdom the 23rd June, 1838. He was made a Knight of St. Patrick in 1851. His Lordship was also Lord Lieutenant of the county of Wexford. He married, the 16th Nov., 1816, Jane Catharine, daughter of Major Anthony Cliffe, of Ross, by whom he leaves issue two sons and two daughters: the latter, who are both married, are Mrs. Davies Gilbert, of Treillick, Cornwall, and Mrs. Frideaux Brune. Lord Carew died at his seat, Castleboro', on the 2nd inst. He is succeeded by his elder son, Robert Shapland, now the second Baron, who was born the 23rd June, 1818, and married, the 16th July, 1844, Emily Anne, second daughter of Sir G. R. Phillips, Bart., M.P. His Lordship is Colonel of the Wexford Militia.

SIR E. TIERNEY, BART.

SIR EDWARD TIERNEY, second Baronet, of BRIGHTHELMSTONE, was the third son of John Tierney, Esq., of Ballyscandlen, county Limerick, by his wife, Mary, daughter of James Gleeson, Esq., of Rath Kiman, in the same county. He was born in 1780, and, having adopted the legal profession, became Clerk of the Errors in the Exchequer Chamber, and subsequently Crown Solicitor for the North-West Circuit in Ireland. He succeeded as second Baronet, pursuant to the special limitation in the patent, on the death in 1845 of his eldest brother, Sir Matthew John Tierney, the distinguished physician in ordinary to George IV. and William IV.

Sir Edward Tierney married, in 1812, Anna Maria, youngest daughter of Henry Jones, Esq.; and had issue one daughter, Harriet Mary, now the wife of the Rev. Sir W. L. Darrell, Bart., and one son, his successor, Lieut.-Colonel Matthew Edward Tierney, of the Coldstream Guards, now the third Baronet, who is married to Mary, daughter of the late F. G. S. Farrer, Esq., of Brafield House, Bucks.

Sir Edward Tierney died on the 11th ult. at his town residence, 16, Lower Fitzwilliam-street, Dublin.

SIR GEORGE BURRARD, BART.

THE Rev. Sir George Burrard, third Baronet, of Walthamton, Hants, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, Rector of Burton Coggles, Lincolnshire, and Vicar of Middleton Tyas, Yorkshire, died at his seat, Walthamton, near Lymington, on the 17th ult. He was the second son of Colonel William Burrard, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Joseph Pearce, Esq., nephew of Sir Harry Burrard, the first Baronet. He was born the 6th April, 1769, and succeeded to the Baronetcy the 7th Feb., 1840, on the death of his elder brother, the second Baronet, the distinguished Admiral Sir Harry Burrard, G.C.B., who afterwards assumed the additional surname of Neale. Sir George Burrard married, first, in 1804, Elizabeth Anne, daughter and heir of William Coppell, Esq., of Jamaica, and by that lady (who died the 11th April, 1815) left an only surviving child, George, born 18th Oct., 1805. Sir George Burrard married, secondly, the 1st May, 1816, Emma, daughter of Admiral Joseph Bingham, and by her had issue two sons and two daughters. One of these daughters, now Mrs. F. H. Crozier, is living; the other, Mrs. W. H. Cooper, of Pains-hill, died February 2nd, 1849. Sir George Burrard is succeeded by his eldest son, George, now the fourth Baronet, who was formerly M.P. for Lymington, and who married, the 3rd January, 1839, Isabella, only daughter of Sir G. Duckett, Bart.

SIR W. E. ROUSE BOUGHTON, BART.

SIR WILLIAM EDWARD ROUSE BOUGHTON, Bart., of Lawford Hall, Warwickshire, and Downton Hall, Salop, was the only son of Sir Charles William Rouse Boughton, Bart., by his wife, Catharine, only daughter and heiress of William Pearce Hall, Esq., of Downton Hall. He was born the 14th Sept., 1788; was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated in 1808, and, on the death of his father, the 26th February, 1821, he inherited the two Baronetcies of his family—one, of which he was the tenth in succession, having been created in 1641, and the other, of which he was the second in succession, having been created in 1791. Sir William Edward Rouse Boughton married, the 24th March, 1824, Charlotte, youngest daughter of Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq., of Wormsley Grange, President of the Horticultural Society, by which lady (who died the 14th May, 1842) he leaves issue two sons and five daughters. Sir William died on the 22nd ult., and is succeeded by his elder son, Charles Henry, an officer in the British Army, who married, the 23rd August, 1852, Mary Caroline, second daughter of John M. Severne, Esq., of Thornford, Northamptonshire, and Wallop Hall, Shropshire, and has issue.

It was the seventh Baronet of this house, Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, whose death, in 1780, the supposed result of poison, gave rise to the celebrated trial which ended in the conviction and execution of Sir Theodosius's brother-in-law, Captain Donellan.

JAMES LUMSDEN, ESQ., OF YOKER LODGE.

This gentleman died at his town residence in St. Vincent-street, Glasgow, on the 16th ult., at the age of seventy-eight. Mr. Lumsden began life as an engraver and stationer, and was very successful, but it would be difficult to say, from his enterprising spirit, what business he was not engaged in. He rose to be a leading, if not the most leading, man in Glasgow. After a long career of activity and usefulness, and after filling various public offices, he was elected Lord Provost of that city, and during his civic reign he succeeded in carrying the Municipal Extension Bill. On the presentation of the freedom of Glasgow to Lord John Russell, Mr. Lumsden, at his own private expense, entertained his Lordship, the Corporation, and others, at a splendid banquet in the Townhall. Mr. Lumsden, whilst Provost, went with Dr. Strang, the Glasgow City Chamberlain, to congratulate Louis Philippe at Neuilly upon his escape from an assassin. The Provost and Dr. Strang in 1833 made a tour in Germany, the incidents of which Dr. Strang has graphically described in his volumes of travels. Mr. Lumsden was a man of great kindness of heart and generosity of disposition, but of somewhat eccentric manner. In private life he was distinguished by strong practical benevolence, and in public life by an honest and indefatigable energy.

WILLS.—The will of Rear-Admiral Sir William Symonds, K.C.B., was proved under £16,000; Capt. Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B., Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, late of Melbourne, £20,000; Sir Edmund H. Lechmere, Bart., £60,000; Francis Barchard, Esq., £250,000; Henry Hulbert, Esq., £45,000; Thomas Buckle Herring, Finchley, £70,000; Charles Walton, Gracechurch-street, £50,000; Richard Hodge, Regent-street, £45,000.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

WE are assured by a well-informed friend that Lord Fitzwilliam is not the last survivor of the sitters to Sir Joshua; that another remains in the grown-up person of the sitter for *Puck*; and that the merry boy, late a porter at Elliot's Brewery in Pimlico, was in Christie and Manson's rooms when, at Mr. Rogers's sale, that masterpiece of Sir Joshua's pencil was knocked down to Lord Fitzwilliam. The model for *Puck* and the ex-porter at the brewery was standing next to his Lordship at the time. Mr. Cotton (who is busy about Sir Joshua) will make a note of this.

The noble Annabale Caracci, "The Coronation of the Virgin by the Trinity," justly regarded as one of the jewels of Mr. Rogers's collection, has passed through Mr. Farrer's hands into the gallery of the Duke of Newcastle at Clumber. The "whereabouts" of a noble picture is what every lover of art is desirous to learn. Dr. Waagen, who is once more in England adding to his knowledge of our wealth in this way, will be glad to hear of this accession to the Clumber collection; and so will the Committee for the Exhibition at Manchester, in 1857, of the Art-treasures of the United Kingdom.

That excellent engraver, Mr. Gruner, who has been a resident so long among us, is on the eve of quitting England for a settled residence at Dresden. He does not leave us, however, until he has completed (which he has just done) his engraving of the Blenheim Raphael. And a very noble accession to the portfolio of the collector has Mr. Gruner made in this engraving. The visitor to Blenheim cannot fail to recollect the fine picture by Raphael of "The Virgin Enthroned" in that grand collection. The picture was painted by Raphael for the church of St. Fiorenzo, at Perugia, whence it passed, about the year 1780, direct to Lord Spencer, and from Lord Spencer to the then Duke of Marlborough.

Hogarth's tomb in Chiswick churchyard has just been restored, at the expense of an admirer bearing the name of the great painter. The restoration has been made in exact accordance with the first design. To secure the permanent safety of the tomb it was necessary to disturb the coffins beneath. Very few persons were present when this was done. Those who were there saw the large coffin of his mother-in-law, Lady Thornhill, the still larger coffin of his widow, and the "little" coffin of the great painter of mankind. One who was present assured us that he saw the "torpid hand" of the painter of "Marriage à la Mode" and "The Harlot's Progress."

We have been to see the collection of pictures opened to the public on Monday last at the Crystal Palace. We went, wishing well to the scheme, but left with an unfavourable impression. Much remained to be done. We shall, therefore, reserve our opinion of the ultimate success of the undertaking until we have made another visit. Something of the same kind has been attempted before at the Pantheon in Oxford-street.

Our best line engravers are not altogether idle. Mr. Doo is putting the last touches to a portrait of Pope for the long-promised edition of the poet's works by Mr. Croker and Mr. Cunningham. The portrait is that at Hagley, by Richardson, and is now engraved for the first time. Mr. J. H. Robinson is stopping at Petworth for the purpose of engraving that exquisite Vandyck of Ann Carr, Countess of Bedford, the daughter of Carr, Earl of Somerset, and of the infamous Countess of Essex, and not less celebrated as the mother of William Lord Russell, the great Whig martyr of Mackintosh and Macaulay.

There is a talk of forming an "Old Mortality Club," for the purpose of recutting and preserving inscriptions on monuments to persons of eminence. The club will not come into existence too soon. Within the last five years we can recall many interesting tomb stones then barely legible, but now altogether effaced. The club might extend its usefulness by marking the graves of great men with that *hic jacet*, which will direct attention to the grave and make the "reader attend." The club may begin with a plain, unpretending monument, in Covent-garden Church-yard, to the author of "Hudibras." The precise place of the poet's burial is known; but there is nothing to mark the spot.

Among the mass of pictures now on view in London we have been particularly pleased with a "Madonna," by Carlo Dolce, at No. 25, Surrey-street, Strand. Very full indeed of fine feeling and fine painting is this head of the "Madonna." It is also in excellent preservation. Her Majesty, if we remember rightly, has a somewhat similar head by the same artist in her private collection. There are other pictures of inferior merit in the room in which the Carlo Dolce is shown.

We hear that the removal of the Royal Society from Somerset-house to Burlington-house was this week finally determined. The Society of Antiquaries will remain for some time longer in Somerset-house.

We observe with a mixture of regret and pleasure that our old friend Sylvanus Urban has removed his quarters from King-street, Westminster, to Oxford and the Strand. After the 1st of the present month, Mr. John Bowyer Nichols and Mr. John Gough Nichols have nothing whatever to do with the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Their names carried us back to St. John's Gate, to Cave, and to Dr. Johnson. Why have they sold Sylvanus to Mr. Parker of Oxford? Mr. John Gough Nichols is an excellent antiquary and fond of associations;—why has he ceased to look with reverence on Mr. Urban and St. John's Gate?

Mr. David Masson's excellent "Essay on Chatterton; a Story of the Year 1770" (part of a delightful volume just published of Essays chiefly on English poets), reminds us of an unpublished reference to Chatterton, that Mr. Masson and others will read with interest. It is part of a letter from George Stevens to Thomas Warton, and runs thus:—

Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Oct. 29th, 1782.
A few days ago a Mr. Harford, a merchant of Bristol, came to this college, to admit a son and a ward of his. From him it appears that one Greene, a carpenter, at Bristol, who collected books, partly through curiosity and partly through hopes of gain, furnished Chatterton with most of the works he had read. This Mr. Harford purchased the very copy of Gawain Douglas's "Virgil," which our young poet had used, together with two Chaucers and some other manuscripts. I should have said that this Greene kept a circulating library, of modern books, but preserved all his old ones in a separate room, to which Chatterton had constant access. Mr. Harford made several other observations on the conduct of this boy which I may tell you when we meet. All that Chatterton said relative to Mrs. Pelham is absolutely false; no such estate was in the hands of that family at the time described. The same gentleman remarked that of *Fitz* before the name of a place (see some of Chatterton's names in the "Battle of Hastings") there is no example.

The obituaries announce the death, on the 26th of last month, of John May, Esq., the friend and correspondent of Robert Southey. The Poet Laureate was particularly attached to Mr. May, and dedicated to him his poem on the "Battle of Waterloo." Mr. May was for many years a director of the Equitable Assurance Company. He died at Blackheath, aged eighty-one.

One of the twin-statues of Galileo and Newton, intended for presentation by her Majesty to the New Museum at Oxford, was fixed in the Museum on Wednesday last, and attracted great attention. The statue represents Galileo, and the artist is Mr. Munro, deservedly known by many fine works. The figure is well conceived, and the execution all that can be desired.

A GIGANTIC FAILURE.—A meeting of M. Place's creditors took place at Paris on Monday, for the examination of his accounts. The liabilities amount to rather more than 18,000,000 francs. The assets are estimated at about one-third of that sum, i.e., 6,000,000 f. The railway and financial notabilities are heavy losers. The Duke de Galliera is said to be down in M. Place's books for upwards of 5,000,000 f. (£200,000 sterling). M. de Morny loses 900,000 f.; and the railway King, Pereire, nearly 2,000,000. All the banking-houses in Paris are more or less involved. About a week ago it was apparent that M. Place must suspend his payments; but the principal creditors, who are, like himself, either directors or large shareholders of the *Crédit Mobilier*, endeavoured to compromise the affair, fearing the effect of the failure on the securities in their hands—a reason which, doubtless, has likewise deterred the *agents de change* from coming forward and stating the extent of their losses; but it is understood that an exalted personage came forward and decided that the law must take its course.

MUSIC.

ANOTHER prima donna, new to the public, has appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre. On Monday last Madame Albertini made her debut, in the character of *Leonora*, in "Il Trovatore," with triumphant success. There were other novelties in the cast, which gave fresh interest to an opera already familiar to the musical public. Madame Albion appeared, for the first time in this country, in the part of *Azucena*, the gipsy woman, who is really the heroine of the piece. The character of *Manrico* was performed by Baccardé, and that of the *Comte de Luna* by Beneventano. Madame Albertini is English by birth, but wholly Italian by education. She has been for a good many years, and has established her reputation as, an accomplished singer and a powerful tragedian. Her figure is tall and commanding, and her features, though perhaps not regularly handsome, are striking and expressive. Her voice is a real soprano, of great power and compass, though it seems to have suffered a little in the highest part of the scale, probably in consequence of her being accustomed to sing the music of Verdi, which tries severely the strongest voice. Madame Albertini, in order to give her high notes sufficient power, is apt to force her voice too much, and make it somewhat shrill and piercing. Notwithstanding this defect, however, her voice is a superb organ, and she uses it like a most accomplished artist. Her execution is clear and brilliant, and her method of vocalisation is that of the best Italian school. She is peculiarly excellent in the delivery of recitative; and no native Italian could declaim that beautiful language with greater grace and purity. Every thing she does, both as an actress and a singer, is full of intelligence and feeling. On her very first appearance she made a strong impression on the audience. The fine air in the opening scene, "Tacea la notte placida," was given with such beautiful execution and such a warmth of expression that it was received with thunders of applause. Throughout the piece her success became more and more triumphant, and the curtain fell amid enthusiastic acclamations from all parts of the house. The part of *Azucena* is one which Albion has only recently essayed, and in which she has had great success on the Parisian stage. It shows that she has powers as a tragedian which formerly she was not supposed to possess. The character is quite suitable to her personal appearance, and her performance of it on Monday was a display of high dramatic genius. This part contains some of the finest music in the opera; and her performance of it was a combination of vocal beauty and impassioned expression which could not be surpassed. Baccardé was decidedly successful in the character of *Manrico*. Since his appearance several years ago, at the same theatre, he has made great progress in his art. His voice is beautiful, and highly cultivated; he is an intelligent actor, and is well entitled to hold an important position in a great theatre. Beneventano makes progress in public favour. He appeared to great advantage in the character of the *Comte de Luna*, and was warmly applauded, and his principal air, the beautiful "Il balen del suo sorriso," was loudly encored. As a whole this fine opera was admirably performed; and will, probably, be frequently repeated during the season.

The principal concert of the week has been that of the NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, which took place at the Hanover-square Rooms on Wednesday evening. Its most remarkable feature was a pianoforte concerto, composed and performed by M. Otto Goldschmidt. It was his first work of magnitude that has been heard in London, and did much honour to his talents as a composer. Without being marked with the stamp of high genius, it showed the attainments of an accomplished artist, being skillfully constructed, clear, and melodious. He played his own music beautifully, and had a most cordial reception. There was another pianoforte piece, composed and performed by M. Silas; a work of much merit, and admirably executed by the author. The rest of the concert was made up of well-known pieces, including Mozart's symphony in E flat, and Beethoven's magnificent overture to "Leonora."

MR. HULLAH commenced his second series of orchestral concerts on Monday evening, at St. Martin's Hall. We have already mentioned the object of these concerts, which is to popularise the highest order of orchestral music, by combining excellence of performance with a cheap rate of admission. Mr. Hullah has succeeded in drawing crowded audiences to St. Martin's Hall, where they hear the *chefs-d'œuvre* of the great masters performed by an orchestra composed of the best performers in London. On Monday the programme included Mendelssohn's symphony in A minor (called the Scotch Symphony), Beethoven's overture to "Fidelio," Weber's Jubilee Overture, the same composer's "Concert-Stück," admirably played by Pauer, and vocal pieces sung by Madame Viardot.

PROFESSOR STERNDALÉ BENNETT has concluded for this season his series of Concerts of Classical Pianoforte Music. The last was given at the Hanover-square Rooms on Tuesday evening. These performances have been both interesting and instructive. They have afforded the amateur the enjoyment of hearing the finest pianoforte music executed in the best manner, and they have been valuable lessons to the young performer. On Monday the performance consisted of Weber's quartet in B flat, for the piano and stringed instruments, in which Mr. Bennett was accompanied by Messrs. Elagrove, Dando, and Piatli; Beethoven's trio in D, op. 70; Hummel's "Monferrina," for the pianoforte and violoncello; and several of Mr. Bennett's elegant chamber pieces. The vocalists were Miss Dolby and Madame Clara Novello. The room, as usual, was crowded to the doors.

We warmly recommend to our musical readers the performances of "the Brousal Family," which are given daily at the Gallery of Illustration in Regent-street. They are six in number, brothers and sisters, the eldest seventeen, and the youngest six. The second girl plays the violin exquisitely, reminding us of the celebrated Therèse Milanollo; the eldest boy, of thirteen, is a finished violoncellist; the youngest boy and girl (six and seven) play the violin, and the eldest accompanies on the piano. We assure our readers that these youthful performers are not "juvenile prodigies" in the vulgar sense of the term. They are most interesting children, and the most fastidious critic will be charmed with their performances.

THE THEATRES, &c.

LYCEUM.—Two circumstances distinguish this week's performances at this theatre—the production of a burlesque and pantomime by Mr. Albert Smith and his fellow amateurs, and the first appearance of Madame Ristori. The burlesque was written by Mr. Talfourd, and took for its subject "William Tell." The theme was treated with the author's usual humour, but is not peculiarly susceptible of caricature. The combat between *Tell* (Mr. A. Smith) and *Gessler* (Mr. Holmes) was characteristically exaggerated beyond the usual limits. The manner in which the pantomime was gone through was perfect. These amateurs appear to have conquered all the histrionic difficulties of this peculiar kind of performance. The funds were applied to the aid of the Female Naval Orphan School.

The appearance of M^{me}. Ristori on Wednesday in MM. Legouvé's and Montanelli's "Medea" is an event of extraordinary importance. We were prepared both for a great play and a great actress, but not for so marked a triumph in relation to the latter. The former has considerable merits, though falling short of the highest. The author, to a certain extent, has availed himself of the text of Euripides and Apollonius; but, on the whole, we have a right to give him credit for an original treatment of the well-known plot. To this credit he is all the more entitled, as it is on this very ground that the objections of the critic will naturally apply. The force of the dramatic argument lies necessarily in the manner in which *Jason* and *Medea* are mutually portrayed, and it is proper that they should stand out distinctly on the canvas. M. Legouvé, however, has dared not only to give a correspondent development to *Creusa*, but has introduced *Orpheus* as the type of approaching civilisation, and bestowed such pains on his delineation that *Jason* is no longer the hero of the story. Nor is the poetic feeling, though very pleasing, shed over the entire treatment of the theme, by the introduction of the bardic character with all its attributes, a sufficient compensation. The part is properly subordinate, and should have been exclusively maintained in the position of an accessory to the plot; at present it constitutes a sort of "poetic spectacle," so to speak, imprudently overlaying the original fable. In relation to the character of *Medea*, the poet's endeavour has been to humanise her, and to bring her and her acts within the sphere of our moral sentiments. He is careful from the beginning to make her exhibit the feelings of maternity to an excessive degree; and attributes the catastrophe to a revolt of those feelings, in consequence of their being outraged, and her very children being induced by their contact with the family of *Oreon* to manifest a terror and an aversion for herself. There is in this a natural motive supplied, wanting in the original story; but no doubt the treatment, classically considered, suffers from the lack of that severity which, though not needful to a romantic play, is indispensable to a stern tragedy such as the old Euripidean subject properly implies. It is likely, however, that this defect may conduce to the popularity of the present drama, though the practical consequence arising from the concession to the supposed popular taste is the relative weakness of the two last acts as com-

pared with the first; but undoubtedly the triumph of the actress over so formidable a difficulty is all the greater.

The effect of the first act was altogether terribly grand. When the curtain fell, it left a sensation of unparalleled majesty. Acting so magnificent, we thought, we had never witnessed. The *mise en scène*, too, was admirable. The scenery of wood and mountain outside the gates of Corinth, with the statue of Diana, indicative not only of the classic but religious spirit of the drama, was impressive to begin with. But when the barbarian mother with her two children appeared descending the heights, a picture was presented that prepared the spectator for sublime emotions. Nobly did the person and demeanour of the actress justify the incipient feeling. Her first words fell upon the ear:—

Coraggio, amati figli miei, coraggio!
Un pa-so ancora! non è lungo il porto!"

The music of the intonation; the tenderness of the emphasis; the distinctness of the utterance;—these were charming. Scenes of tenderness were succeeded by scenes of energy. *Creusa* and *Medea* meet; a mysterious sympathy attaches them to each other; their fates to a certain extent agree; but at length the terrible truth evolves itself, that the Corinthian Princess is about to marry the long-lost husband of the deserted Barbarian mother. Already we had been told that the forsaken one was capable of jealousy, was capable of crime—the darkest:—

Non parli
D'Eumenidi, e d'amor duci a delitto?
Non vedesti sul mio livido volto
Il tartareo signal che Giove in fronte
Dell'omicida imprime?

Creusa had also confessed to a susceptibility to the pangs of jealousy; but *Medusa* soon shows her the difference in depth that existed between them in respect to the self-same passion. She had wandered like a she-wolf from land to land in search of her fugitive husband, suspecting that he might love and even dare to marry another. What to do?

Che farei
Loro! . . . Che fa nel cupo della selva
Il leopardo, allor che in subitaneo
Salto, ruggendo di terribil gioia,
Precipite qual folgore ghermisce
La preda, e in suo speco la porta, e i membri
Sanguinanti ne squatra a brano a brano.
Creusa (con grido d'orrore). Ah!
Medea (con disegno). Che dicesti allor d'esser gelosa!

Here Ristori gained the climax of effect; imitating the action of the leopard when rending its prey, and then rising with stretched-out arms, triumphant in the completed task. Fearfully appropriate was the barbaric grandeur of the gesture and the attitude. We were reminded of Shakespeare's *Lady Macbeth*—

I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.

But Shakespeare is more consistent in the portraiture of his ambitious murderess. He shrinks not from the homicidal character, which he maintains in its severity throughout. The poet needs a great heart to carry him through with these stern creations. It will not do to make them amiable: such a complex character presents the contradictions which necessarily negative each other, and impair the wholeness of the desired effect. *Medea* suffers from the conflict of feelings by which she is now melted, now enraged; and the spectator has no especial reason to expect, until the blow is struck, that the dreadful purpose will, after all, be accomplished. The catastrophe is thus a surprise, though the basis of it is laid in the statement of the character itself in the initial scenes. All these different phases of emotion, however—all the varieties of action and reaction involved in the perplexity of the maternal combat—found in Ristori an artist who could express them with fulness, and encounter the perils of the most difficult situations with a daring and a genius which made them only the occasions of new and repeated victories. It is not fair on these occasions to criticise too severely the merits of the company by which a foreign "star" is supported. With M^{lle}. Picchiotino, who enacted *Creusa*, though evidently a novice, we were much pleased; we could have desired, however, a stronger and a larger man for *Jason*, whose bulk and feats of strength are celebrated in the dialogue of the play, than Signor Gleck. These minor blemishes weigh little in the presence of such transcendent powers as those displayed by Madame Ristori; and the fashionable and numerous audience by which her debut was witnessed were evidently of the same opinion, and repeatedly summoned the triumphant actress before the curtain, during as well as at the end of the performance.

ADELPHI.—On Wednesday evening Madame Celeste took her benefit, which was attended by a highly fashionable and overflowing house. The attractions consisted of a revival of "The Flying Dutchman," with its supernatural effects; an act of "The Green Bushes;" and the pantomime of "Jack and the Bean Stalk." We congratulate the fair *bénéficiaire* on the result.

THEATRICALS AT ALDERSHOTT.—(From a Correspondent.)—Perhaps you would like to know something of the manner in which the military are amusing themselves at Aldersholt. They seek to imitate the Crimea in its pleasures as well as in its business. They have already made the roads requisite to serve for the arteries and veins of the Camp; and the whole arrangement of huts, disposed in lines alphabetically distinguished, is excellent. The Queen has given her sanction for the opening of a theatre, which is at present conducted under the especial patronage of Lieut.-General Knollys, in the building originally intended for a brigade schoolroom. A pit and orchestra have been sunk, boxes raised, stalls parted off, and an extremely pretty and tasteful stage erected. The scenery has been painted by Mr. Fenton; and the theatre is capable of containing an audience of nearly four hundred persons. The performances are conducted by the amateurs, who are strictly confined to the officers of the Camp, assisted, however, by professional actresses. The celebrated Miss Edith Heraud is now performing here, and gives immense satisfaction. On Monday week Lord Panmure, the Duke of Richmond, and the General attended the theatre, and witnessed a very spirited representation of "The Printer's Devil." Her Majesty also is expected in a week or two. On Friday last the performances consisted of Charles Dance's clever comedy of "The Wonderful Woman" and the operatic interlude of "Amoroso." The former was exceedingly well cast and acted. Lieut. Crossman (Hants Militia) played the *Marquis de Frontignac* with true aristocratic elegance; and *Crepin*, the cobbler, found an admirable representative in Captain Noel (Leicester Militia). The courtly bearing of Captain Roche (Cavan Militia) well suited the character of the *Viscount de Millegneurs*; and Captain Pierce (Royal North Lincoln Militia) was interesting in the part of *Roderolphe*, the young painter. The two female characters, *Hortense* and *Cecile*, were both very artistically supported by Miss Edith Heraud and Miss Rosa Pevensy. The officers are decidedly good actors and intelligent men. They are building permanent barracks here, and I am told that the erection of a suitable theatre forms part of the plan. The neighbourhood of Farnham is much benefited by the establishment of the Camp, and lodgings are exorbitantly dear. I should have stated that the theatre was opened on Monday, April 23, and that the performances take place twice a week. It is managed by a committee of officers, of which Lieutenant Crossman is the stage-manager, and Captain Shaw, of the Royal Dublin Militia, is the secretary. These, I believe, are the two working men, and merit the approbation both of the company and of the audience.

MR. BUCKLAND'S LIVING PICTURES AT THE REGENT GALLERY.—This entertainment commenced on Monday, and consists of a series of *Poses Plastiques*, with musical accompaniments and illustrations. Mr. Buckland presides at the pianoforte, and assists in aiding these expression and humour of the scene. His mimic *troupe* is somewhat numerous, and are employed to represent the more striking scenes of Shakespeare's "Tempest"—fifteen in all; while Mr. Buckland and Miss Clara Fisher explain the situations with song and music. A sort of concert follows, in which the lady sings a pathetic ballad, and the conductor revels in a comic aquatic sketch, descriptive of the perils of cockney sailors. A burlesque representation, by the whole strength of the company, of the supposed rehearsal of an absurd melodrama closed the exhibition, which was received with much applause, and, from its picturesque character, is likely to prove not unsuccessful.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOM has been attached to the Royal Engineers' establishment at Chatham, for the purpose of being used by the troops belonging to that branch of the service in taking views of plans, field-works, batteries, and other engineering operations. The apparatus is worked entirely by a party of Sappers and Miners, recently employed by the Royal Commissioners at Gore-house.



EPSOM RACES.—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT AND H.R.H. PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA IN THE GRAND STAND



"ELLINGTON," WINNER OF THE DERBY, 1856.

EPSOM RACES.
THE ROYAL VISIT.

THE intended Royal visit of Prince Albert and Prince Frederick-William of Prussia to the races on Wednesday was not known to Mr. Dorling until Tuesday afternoon, consequently little time was afforded for making the preparations for the accommodation of the distinguished visitors. Mr. Dorling at once prepared an apartment at the south end of the Grand Stand, adjoining the private saloon, which was filled with the leading female members of the aristocracy. The room was tastefully fitted up with crimson hangings and handsome lace curtains. On the table was a beautiful bust in Parian of the late Lord George Bentinck, and over the looking-glass hung the Royal arms, in needlework, executed by the Misses Dorling. The Royal party left Buckingham Palace in four carriages and four at twelve o'clock, and arrived at the Stand at about two, a few minutes before the first race, where they were received by Mr. Edward Dorling, and conducted by him to their apartment in the Stand. In attendance on the Princes were Lieut.-Gen. Baron Schreckenstein, Baron de Moltke, Baron Scutter de Lötzen, Baron de Gemmingen, Captain Du Plat, Captain Heinz, the Hon. Mortimer Sackville West, Lieut. Schreckenstein, Dr. Ullman, and Dr. Wegner. Although there was no cheering there was no lack of curiosity to obtain a glimpse of the future husband of the eldest daughter of our beloved Queen. The Royal visitors appeared to take great interest in the race for the Derby; but perhaps what astonished them the most was the excitement of the Betting Ring, and the extraordinary *coup-d'œil* presented by the immense numbers on the ground, amongst whom the utmost order everywhere prevailed. They left the course immediately after the great event was decided; and Prince Albert, before taking his departure, sent for Mr. Dorling, and personally expressed his obligation for the admirable arrangements made for the accommodation of his distinguished visitors.

In the accompanying Illustration the Artist has sketched their Royal Highnesses and their suites in the Grand Stand.

"ELLINGTON," WINNER OF THE DERBY.

This horse is a remarkably fine brown colt, the property of Admiral Harcourt, and his genealogy is in every way an indication of good running; his sire being the Flying Dutchman, who, in 1849, accomplished the double feat of winning both Derby and St. Leger. His dam was Ellerdale, who was also the property of the gallant owner of the above celebrated winner of the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. His victory is somewhat similar to that of Daniel O'Rourke's in 1853. Ellington, during the early part of the year, was a decided favourite; but he receded in the betting in consequence of two defeats he suffered at York and Chester. It would, however, appear from the result of the great race of Wednesday week that he has by no means disappointed the most sanguine expectations of his backers. Yellow Jack, who was second, has figured in the same position in no less than three events during the present season, a circumstance, probably, unprecedented in racing history.

Ellington is a dark brown horse, standing fifteen hands two and a half inches; a long, low animal with strong quarters, somewhat drooping towards the tail, good loins; deep brisket and shoulder; good neck, large and somewhat coarse head, with ears rather "lopped;" very good arms, large knees, hocks, and bone, and very large feet. The only white about him is on his off hind fetlock-joint.

"MINCEPIE," WINNER OF THE OAKS.

Mincepie is a chestnut filly, bred by the Earl of Howth, and is now the property of H. Hill, Esq. Her sire was Sweetmeat, once celebrated on the turf, and her dam Foinsualla, by Irish Birdcatcher. This is the second time the above fortunate owner has won the Oaks; having accomplished the same feat in 1848 with Cymba. The winner, Mincepie, was trained by John Day and ridden by Alfred Day. The victory in this instance will,

in some degree, compensate them for the defeat of Wentworth for the Derby.

We subjoin the particulars of the race:—

THE OAKS STAKES of 50 sovs. each.

Mr. H. Hill's ch Mincepie, by Sweetmeat—Foinsualla	(A. Day) 1
Lord Clifden's ch Melissa, by Orlando (Sly) 2
Mr. Bowes's b Victoria, by Melbourne (Bartholomew) 3

Betting: 5 to 2 agst Mincepie, 7 to 2 agst Mermaid, 7 to 1 agst Victoria, 8 to 1 agst Tyne, 10 to 1 each agst Secret and Comedy, 100 to 6 agst Fair Geraldine, and 20 to 1 agst Melissa. Secret pulled her way to the front the instant the flag fell, followed by Victoria, Melissa, and Comedy to the top of the hill, where Victoria took up the running, Secret going on second, Melissa third, Comedy fourth, and Tyne fifth; Mincepie and Mermaid lying next side by side, and Shot bringing up the rear. This order was maintained to the mile-post, after passing which Melissa headed Secret, and the latter dropping further back at the upper turn was passed by Comedy and Mincepie, the latter pulling tremendously, there parting with Mermaid, who became last but one or two. In descending the hill towards Tattenham Corner, Comedy joined Melissa, and they ran head and head to the road, where the Baron's filly dropped off, and Victoria giving way soon after crossing it, Melissa went on with a clear lead, followed for a few strides by Victoria, and afterwards by Mincepie, who, gradually drawing upon Melissa, got to her quarters inside the distance. Here Alfred Day quietly waited until opposite the upper end of the Stand, when he made his effort, and Mincepie getting her head first kept it there to the end, and won, after a fine struggle, by a neck. Victoria finished three lengths from Lord Clifden's mare, and Fair Geraldine, who passed the others in the straight, as far from her. The next two, at least a dozen lengths off, were Mermaid and Comedy, and separating them from the rear division was Shadow, Tyne being the "absolute last." Run in 3 min. 4 sec. Net value of the stakes £3500.



"MINCEPIE," WINNER OF THE OAKS, 1856.

MADAME ADELAIDE RISTORI, whose portrait we now present, and whose tragic supremacy is acknowledged, has not attained her high reputation at a bound, but after repeated efforts; and, not without a temporary retirement from the stage, has at length reached an unquestioned eminence. Genius has many phases, and each indicates a certain stage of growth; for genius is a living, growing thing, and, not like talent, a mechanical acquirement, a ready-made article, perfect from the date of its manufacture, and suffering then only from wear and tear. Previous to her appearance in Paris in the spring of last year, Madame Ristori had frequently acted with proportionate success, though not always in the highest rôles. We find her in 1840 playing a variety of ordinary characters with the company of comedians belonging to the Court of the King of Sardinia. At an earlier period, indeed, she played the part of *Francesca* in Sylvio Pellico's tragedy, and had been for some time an actress in Rome, where her genius manifested its first promise. Born, in 1822, in Venetian Lombardy, she was indeed educated in Rome, and her histrionic blossoms in the Eternal City, and subsequent efforts in Sardinia, comprise the first chapters of her life, down to the age of twenty-four, when she married the Marquis Capranica del Grillo, and took a temporary leave of the boards. No doubt this secession from public exertion was of benefit to the artist. Withdrawn from action, the mind found leisure to reflect on what it had done, and brood in silence alone on future purposes. The taste for applause had also been generated, and the actress could not but thirst for the license to which she had now become accustomed. We wonder not, therefore, that Madame Ristori returned to the stage, but rather that she remained absent so long. For two years she lived on the memory of her triumphs; at the close of them she came again forward to win new laurels. She reappeared in her maiden name. But it was not until she gained the suffrages of the Parisians that she secured her position. Her favourite part of *Francesca di Rimini* established her as a favourite, and she was at once praised by Jules Janin as the leading actress of the age. This crowning effort was made on the 22nd May last year. Soon she added *Mirra* (Alfieri's fearful tragedy), *Pia*, and *Maria Stuarda* (Maffei's translation of Schiller's noble drama), and ultimately, M. Ernest Legouvé's *Médée*. The last tragedy had originally been written for Mdlle. Rachel, but that lady appears not to have liked the work she had ordered, and refused to perform her contract. The French laws bearing on the relations of actor and author are more stringent and more just than those of England, and the celebrated actress was legally amerced in pecuniary compensation. Madame Ristori approved of what Rachel had rejected, and the tragedy was translated (admirably, by the by) into Italian by M. Joseph Montanelli. The production has gained by this in every way. It was acted with great success both at Turin and Paris, and was at once regarded as a work which, assisted by the extraordinary genius of the actress, was calculated to make an epoch in stage-history. Even Mdlle. Rachel—who could not restrain her emotions at the first successes of Ristori, and had no reason to be pleased with M. Legouvé—felt compelled to acknowledge the merits of her rival. Their styles are similar, however, in many respects. In both there is the same florid, exuberant action, the same startling and occasional effects; but there is a savoury spontaneity, and an intensity in the general manner of Ristori which engages our gentler feelings. We perhaps admire both equally, but we decidedly like Ristori better. She, too, has the advantage of youth and superior beauty. Lamartine, indeed, describes her as "naturally and mentally beautiful" to which an English critic adds,—"a tall commanding figure, features cast in the finest mould of classic beauty, a deep blue eye, so expressive as scarcely to require the aid of a voice which, without being loud, seems to have every feeling and passion upon its scale." Such are Nature's gifts to Madame Ristori for the theatre. The English public, however, have now an opportunity of judging of the accomplished actress for themselves, and the result of her début on the London boards will be found in our article on the Lyceum Theatre. To that, also, we refer for our opinion on the new tragedy, which was produced on that occasion.

NEW MUSIC 43

MADAME BASSANO and HERR WIL-
HELM KIEHNS GRAND ANNUAL MORNING CONCERT
will take place at the CANTON CLUB ROOMS, MONDAY,
JULY 1st, 1886. To commence at 10 o'clock. Artists:
Violist (Garcia), Rhenberg, Stahlack, Theresa Bassano, Bassano
Mama; Signa Novena, Pfeich, F. Lohsch, Buschart, N. H. H. Pique,
Richard Hingrove, Miss Arabella Goodard, and Herr Kuhn. Conductors:
H. Hingrove and Mr. August. Tickets, 10c each; Tickets, 10c each.
Box seats, 10c each. Box seats, 10c each. Box seats, 10c each.
Street; of Herr Kuhn, 19, Himmels-street, Manchester-square, and of
the principal Music-sellers.

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE.—By kind permission of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Madame O'RYGAN and MATINEE MUSICALS will take place on MONDAY, JUNE 23rd, at 8 o'clock, One Guinea each, to be had at Madame O'ry's residence, 23, Argyll-street.

SCARBOROUGH, the Queen of Watering Places in the North.—PHOTOGRAPHY, J. BANTHAM'S PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION is OPEN DAILY. Admission Free. Portraits re-colored in the highest style of Art, opposite the Free Press Office.

120 SPECIAL EXCURSION TICKETS entitle the holder to travel (first class) by rail of the Company's ships, and on the Royal Naval Railway, during the season.

These ships, well equipped, and carrying experienced seamen, are fitted for the most comfortable and safe navigation of the Helles and North Seas. Passengers, unless the holder of a Besigsgeld, board at moderate charge. Port tickets, plans of cabins, &c., are at the Company's Office, No. 11, King William-street; or to J. M. Pugh, 311a, Oxford-street.

IN FRONT OF BANK AND VICTORIA-BANK every SUNDAY
(weather permitting, from Easter till October.)

Subscriptions for the expenses may be paid to the credit of the Family Funds Account, which has been opened in the name of the Rev. John Venn, Treasurer, Bart. M. P.; Sir Joshua Walsley, M. P.; and William Arthur Wilkinson, Esq. M. P.; at the Bank of London, Threadneedle street, City, and the West Strand.

Post-office orders to be made payable to Richard Moore, Caretaker.

Small sums may be transmitted in postage-stamps.

By order, R. MOORE, Chairman.
T. C. PRATT, Treasr. Secy.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF WELLINGTON COLLEGE BY HER MAJESTY.

On Monday last the long-deferred ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of this magnificent institution took place with great *éclat* at Sandhurst. Trains were dispatched by both the South-Western and South-Eastern Railways, and these were crowded with ladies and gentlemen, the governors and their friends. All were early on the ground, as it was particularly requested that the spectators should be seated and in order at least an hour before the time fixed for the commencement of the ceremony. The hours for starting the trains from London were also so arranged as to compel compliance with this regulation, and all went well. There was no hurry or confusion; the details were carried out perfectly. At one o'clock most of the chief personages connected with the College went down to the temporary station to receive her Majesty, and five minutes after the regular heavy reports of the Royal Artillery announced the arrival of the Royal party. The Earl of Derby, as Vice-President of the College, received her Majesty on alighting, and the whole party entered the Royal carriages in attendance, which conveyed them immediately to the site of the building. On descending from the carriages a procession was formed, and entered the quadrangle. Her Majesty wore a summer dress of white muslin, white visite, and white bonnet; Prince Albert walked on her left, and was attired in the full uniform of a Field-Marshal, with the ribbon and badge of the Garter, the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Prussian star of the Black Eagle, and the chief star of the Baden Order of Knighthood. Both her Majesty and Prince Albert looked remarkably well. On the right of her Majesty walked his Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia. He was dressed in the uniform of a Colonel of cavalry—dark blue, with silver appointments, with the insignia of the Black Eagle and a cross of the Saxon Order of Knighthood. His Royal Highness is a remarkably fine well-made young man, of fair complexion, with small regular features, and a frank open expression of countenance, which incessantly wins upon the spectator. Immediately behind them came the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and Prince Arthur.

All the Princes were dressed in full Highland costume, in the Royal or Stuart tartan. It was Prince Arthur's first appearance in public, and he was present on this occasion as the godson of the illustrious Duke in whose honour the ceremony of the day took place. With the Princes were the Princess Royal and the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louisa. The first named was dressed like the Queen, in white, and, of course, attracted the principal share of public admiration. The three younger Princesses wore white dresses over pink silk slips, with pink silk jackets and bonnets. The Regent of Baden, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary of Cambridge, and the Duke of Cambridge followed the Royal family. The Regent wore the uniform of a Prussian General (dark blue and gold), with the grand cordon of Baden, and the stars of the Orders of Baden and Coburg. The Duke wore the uniform of a full General, with the ribbon and badge of the Garter.

Instantly on their entering the quadrangle the whole assemblage in the seats and galleries rose in one mass, the troops presented arms, the bands struck up the National Anthem, and the heavy salvos of the Royal salute were almost drowned by the cheers which rang from every side. Her Majesty seemed much pleased and struck by the generous cordiality of her reception. The Royal party having taken their position round the stone,

The Earl of Derby, as vice-president of the hospital, advanced, and, in the name of the governors, read an address to the Queen, to which her Majesty made a reply. The Archbishop of Canterbury having delivered a



MADAME BISTORI, AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.—(SEE PAGE 622.)

solemn and impressive prayer, the ceremony of laying the stone commenced. The stone was a massive slab of solid polished granite. Beneath it was a deep recess, in which her Majesty placed a glass tube containing new specimens of all the current coins of the realm, with an elaborately-engraved inscription on vellum recording the ceremony. Over this receptacle was placed a solid brass plate bearing the following inscription:—

The first stone of the Wellington College, founded in honour of the memory of the Great Duke, and for the education of the orphan sons of officers of the Royal Army, and of the Army of the Hon. East India Company, was laid by her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Monday, June 2, 1856.

This plate, and the stone in which it was set, were then covered with cement; and her Majesty, taking an elaborate silver-gilt trowel, beautifully chased with a design of the building, spread it out smoothly. The upper stone was then lowered into its place; the Queen struck it three blows with an ebony and ivory mallet—then, taking the silver plumb and rule, tested its accuracy, and declared it "well and duly fixed." As the words were uttered, the guns of the artillery again broke for her, and Lord Derby, taking off his hat, gave the signal for the tremendous cheers which followed. Again the bands played—again the troops presented arms, and amid the most brilliant effects and spirit-stirring accessories, and the hearty expressions of exuberant loyalty, the foundation-stone of the great Wellington College was laid.

The Royal party then retired to the pavilion, where a sumptuous luncheon was prepared for them, of which they partook, together with the chief personages who had assisted at the ceremony. The military bands played during the time of luncheon; after which the Queen returned through the building to the Royal tent on the terrace at the north front, to review the troops. The troops on the ground amounted to 12,000 men, comprising two battalions of the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the Rifles, and other distinguished regiments, many of whom had served in the Crimea, and bore on their breasts the tokens of honourable distinction. The Queen and her party entered the tent which had been prepared for them shortly before three o'clock. The troops at that time were drawn up in contiguous columns before the Royal Pavilion, and covered an immense extent of ground. Upon the arrival of her Majesty they marched to the right; having advanced some distance in that direction, they wheeled about and passed close to the Queen's tent. The band of each regiment as it passed enlivened the scene by its martial strains. The number and appearance of the Foot Guards excited equal surprise and admiration. Certainly no finer body of men ever guarded the person of their Sovereign, or supported the honour of their country. When the several regiments had moved back into nearly their original position, the Rifles advanced into the front to skirmish, and kept up a constant discharge. Platoon and file firing were then practised by the other regiments of the line and the Guards. The review concluded by the officers and men along the whole line presenting arms to the Queen. Her Majesty seemed much pleased with the entire spectacle, and complimented the Duke of Cambridge, who was in command of the troops on the ground. The 3rd Light Dragoons was the only cavalry regiment present, and their duty was to assist in keeping the ground. The Queen and Prince Albert left for the railway station before five o'clock. Her Majesty was very warmly received, and seemed much pleased with the complete success which had attended the ceremony.

A large Engraving of the Wellington College, from the drawing of Mr. John Shaw, the architect, with plans and descriptions, and a general account of the Institution, appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 755.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF WELLINGTON COLLEGE, NEAR SANDHURST.



"ANTECHAMBER OF THE TRIBUNAL OF THE INQUISITION, IN THE DUCAL PALACE, VENICE"—PAINTED BY L. HAGHE—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—(SEE PAGE 628.)

AN ENGLISH MAN-OF-WAR IS THE DANCER.—The arrival of an English man-of-war at this place has created no small sensation. The report of her 63-punters, as she saluted her Britannic Majesty's Consul, shook the Moldavians like the shock of an earthquake, and cheered the hearts of the few British subjects who have managed to exist through the annoyances and hardships imposed on them during the continuance of the war. Her Majesty's ship *Recruit* came up, with Colonel Staunton, Royal Engineers, her Majesty's Commissioner for the settlement of the new boundary line. A Turkish steamer has also arrived, with Dervish Pacha and Colonel Basson, the Turkish and French Commissioners. The Russian Commissioner General is hourly expected; when a consultation will take place to settle the preliminaries previously to starting to visit the actual boundary country. Some trouble is anticipated, as the Turks and Russians are both determined to grasp every foot of territory which can possibly come within the reach of litigation. The Austrian army are moving any day in Moldavia. A brigade of cavalry has already gone away, and two regiments are waiting to embark the infantry. The departure of the Austrian seems to give great satisfaction to the inhabitants, who have had more than enough of the society of armies of occupation and observation.—*Letter from Galatz.*

LIVE FISH AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Strasburg Railway has brought to Paris for the Exhibition in the Champs Elysées, about 3000 fish from the Artificial Pisciculture establishment founded at Himmingen by the French Government. They consist of salmon from the Drôme, trout from the lakes of Switzerland, and grayling from the Lake of Constance. These last-named have only been hatched this spring, the salmon-trout are fourteen months old, and are 4½ to 6 inches long. There are two salmon three years old, one of which is nearly 19 inches long by 13 inches in circumference. The fish were conveyed in cylindrical reservoirs made of tin, the water being renewed frequently.

FINE ART EXHIBITIONS
IN LONDON.

Our Six Fine Art Illustrations this week are taken from six different exhibitions in London now open to the public. Thus our first illustration is from the New Society of Painters in Water Colours, and is justly looked upon as one of the best recent specimens of Mr. Louis Haghe's pencil. Mr. Haghe has found his subject in the "Statuts de l'Inquisition d'Etat." He calls it "Antechamber of the Tribunal of the Inquisition in the Ducal Palace, Venice," and the passage he appends to his picture is as follows:—

Si un patricien non banni entrant au service d'un Prince étranger, a moins d'être prêtre ou religieux, domicilié à Rome; il sera sur-le-champ appelé, sous peine d'encourir la disgrâce du gouvernement. S'il refuse de venir ses plus proches parents seront incarcérés deux mois après on avisera aux moyens de la faire tuer partout où il pourra se trouver; et si cela est impossible, il sera dégradé de noblesse, par décret du conseil des Dix, après quoi, ses proches seront mis en liberté.

With what skill and character Mr. Haghe has told a touching story let our large Engraving tell.

Our second illustration is from the Society of British Artists in Suffolk-street. It is by Mr. Hurlstone, the President of the Society, and represents "A Neapolitan Peasant Boy." There is a touch of Murillo in this picture—and it is as good an example of Mr. Hurlstone's style as this year's Exhibition will be found to supply.

Our third illustration, "A Burial in the Vosges," forms No. 62 of the third Exhibition of the French School of Fine Arts now in London. The painter, Gustave Brion, was a pupil of Gabriel Guérin. He received the second-class medal (*genre et paysage*) in 1853; and was honourably mentioned by the judges at the Universal Exhibition of 1855. He has told his story of a Funeral Procession in the Snow with equal pathos and skill.

Our fourth illustration, in size a companion to Mr. Haghe's picture, is taken from the Old Society of Painters in Water Colours. The subject is "A Fête Champêtre," and the painter is Mr. G. Dodgson. It is a most able drawing, reminding us at every turn of Watteau and Stothard. In a certain theatric effect it recalls, and pleasantly recalls, some of the larger pictures of Paul Veronese. With Mr. Dodgson's water-colour drawing before us we can live at Versailles in the age of Louis Quatorze.



"A NEAPOLITAN PEASANT BOY."—PAINTED BY F. Y. HURLSTONE.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

Our fifth illustration is from the National Institute of the Fine Arts, in Regent-street, Portland-place. It is an English landscape by G. Barnard. The view is in Surrey, in the grounds of John Evelyn, at Wootton—classic ground—trod in summer with reverential feet by the many admirers of a perfect model of an old English gentleman.

Our sixth illustration is from the Royal Academy—"Maidenhood"—by Mr. G. E. Hicks.

Standing with reluctant feet,
Where the brook and river meet,
Womanhood and childhood fleet.

Gazing with a timid glance
On the brooklet's swift advance,
On the river's broad expanse.

Deep and still, that gliding stream
Beautiful to thee must seem,
As the river of a dream.

So sings Mr. Longfellow, and so Mr. Hicks has not unsuccessfully sought to embody.

THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH'S PRIZE WHIPS.—The Brocklesby foxhounds are well known as the oldest and one of the best-bred packs in the kingdom. The Brocklesby tenantry contribute a greater number of well-mounted sportsmen to the hunting-field than any other estate. On the necessity of encouraging fox-hunting the Earl and his tenants are perfectly agreed. There is no trouble about preserving foxes on the wolds—the wives are as zealous as the farmers. In order to cultivate the good feeling so necessary in a hunting district, Lord Yarborough gives prizes every year—or the best three-year-old hunting colt and filly in the possession of any of his tenants, two handsomely-mounted and suitably-engraved jockey-whips; for the foxhound dog and bitch sent to the kennels in best condition from their walks, two hunting-whips. We may be allowed to explain, for the benefit of our non-hunting readers, that foxhound puppies are, after being weaned, distributed among certain tenants to dry-nurse, or, technically, "walk," until the time comes round for initiating them, in company with their elders, into the mysteries of hunting. This year, Callow, of Park-lane, has manufactured two Malacca-cane hunting-whips, appropriately ornamented in silver relief, with a representation of a pack in full cry downhill after a fox; the one inscribed:—"Presented by the Earl of Yarborough to Mr. Thomas Borman for the best dog in 1856." The other:—"To Mr. Francis Newton for the best bitch." These prizes are handed down as a sort of heirloom among the Brocklesby tenants.



"FUNERAL IN THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS."—PAINTED BY BRION.—FROM THE LONDON EXHIBITION OF THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF THE FINE ARTS



A FETE CHAMPETRE.—PAINTED BY G. DODGSON.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE OLD SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



"MAIDENHOOD,"—PAINTED BY G. HICKS.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—(SEE PAGE 628.)



"ENTRANCE TO THE FORE WALK, WOTTON, SURREY,"—PAINTED BY G. BARNARD.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS.—(SEE PAGE 628.)

THE PEACE COMMEMORATION



FIREWORKS IN PHOENIX PARK.—(SEE PAGE 635.)

THE PEACE COMMEMORATION.

THE GREEN-PARK.

The situation of this park is familiar to everybody. Spacious and elevated, with the ground gently sloping from Piccadilly to Buckingham Palace and the Mall, perhaps there are few sites better adapted to a pyrotechnic display in or near the metropolis. Hither, then, from an early hour in the evening, trooped large masses of the population, as to one of the chief centres of attraction. True, the weather was anything but auspicious, and involved some *desagrégements*. The sky was overcast, and although there was no rain the air was raw and cold, deprived of the genial warmth of spring verging upon summer, by a keen north-east wind. Cloaks, over-coats, and mufflers, warm dresses and woollen shawls, thick-soled boots and shoes were, therefore, the order of the day, and miserable were they who were without them. As the hour approached for the introductory discharge of fireworks, each minute added to the moving throng. Along every avenue leading to the park a living stream ceaselessly flowed with rapidly-increasing strength and velocity, and appeared powerful enough to bear down every thing before it. If there had been no more than the usual means of ingress, serious accidents could scarcely have been avoided, but, happily, there had been opened six new entrances—two at the side of Piccadilly, two near the Wellington statue, one opposite Buckingham Palace, and another at the corner of Stafford-house—each of considerable width, and therefore not a single mishap occurred. Yet many thousands entered the park in an incredibly short space of time. Deepening and thickening with wonderful rapidity, the huge mass extended itself over the soft and verdant carpet beneath its feet, and even took possession of the trees. The effect upon the park was like that produced by the plague of locusts. The green patches of turf on which the eye rested at one moment were invisible the next; and for some time before the commencement of the fireworks not a blade of grass was to be seen. An immense multitude of human beings, stretched far away on every hand, and was so closely compacted together, especially towards the centre of attraction, that one might have walked on the heads and shoulders of the people with almost as firm and steady a tread as if his foot pressed the solid ground. Nor was that all. The large open space in front of Buckingham Palace, the Mall, Constitution-hill, and every point from which the fireworks could be seen, were crowded with spectators. Numerous parties of ladies and gentlemen occupied the balconies and roofs of Stafford House and the neighbouring mansions, while hundreds clung like bees to the projections of the houses in Piccadilly. There was little with which the crowd could amuse itself whilst it waited for the commencement of the fireworks. A number of wooden frames, painted black, and of all shapes and sizes, extended for between 200 and 300 yards along the front of the open space reserved for the exhibition. They were mounted with fireworks of different kinds; but, however curious or promising, they could not be gazed at for ever, and there was nothing else to attract the attention of the people. The air, too, was cold and raw, and perhaps it was not surprising, in such circumstances, that recourse should be had to some rather questionable means of warming away the time. It was not the fault of the crowd that a gang of ruffians endeavoured to create a panic by rushing about armed with branches which they had torn from the trees. But to throw 200,000 or 300,000 sensible, steady people into disorder would have required a force much larger in numbers than any these "roughs" could muster; and, in point of fact, a small body of policemen, aided by a portion of the respectable bystanders, sufficed to put an end to their hopes of plunder.

The scene was much enlivened by the appearance of the mansions on the east and north of the park. In most of these parties had been given for the occasion, and the brilliantly-lighted rooms, one after another, each one displaying the varied internal magnificence of an aristocratic saloon, presented a beautiful and peculiar appearance. In many of them the balustrades were lined with spectators, those of the lower rooms with guests in full-dress, and in the upper departments with the domestics and their friends, altogether exhibiting a spectacle which could not easily be matched anywhere else. Many of the houses were brilliantly illuminated. Bridgewater-house in particular presented four long series of lamps arranged on pillars, with device above, making one of the most tasteful illuminations in the metropolis.

A few minutes before the commencement of the fireworks the Queen, Prince Albert, the members of the Royal family, Prince William of Prussia, and other persons of rank, took their seats in a pavilion erected on the north end of Buckingham Palace, facing the park. Her Majesty was received with loud demonstrations of loyalty and enthusiasm. The Royal party had an admirable view of the fireworks, and seemed to participate in the admiration which they excited.

Punctually at the appointed hour the entertainments began with a series of illuminations and a discharge of maroons. The fires were white, red, green, and yellow, and the effect was something like that which would be produced by a chemical manufactory in flames. For upwards of an hour and a half the air above the park and for some distance around was luminous with the blaze of suns, stars, comets, and streamers—the flight of rockets, shells, and Roman candles—the descent of meteors, parachutes, and showers of pearl, silver, and golden rain. Shining serpents and fire-dances chased each other through a sea of light, resting on a bed of upturned human faces, and ingenious contrivances with loud technical names flamed against and thwarted the sky in every variety of movement. The eye was dazzled with the intensity of the light, the brilliancy of the colours, and the complication of lines and curves described by the flying rockets; while the ear in turn was assailed by the whizzing of wheels and revolving stars, the bursting of shells, and the discharge of mines and batteries. The programme was a rather long one, consisting of no fewer than twenty-four "divisions," and was not exhausted till eleven o'clock. It comprised almost everything that is either new, curious, or beautiful in pyrotechny. Some of the fixed pieces were remarkably elegant: the stars, hoops, and crosses elicited the most enthusiastic expressions of delight; and indeed, nothing could have been finer. Those rockets which, exploding in the air, threw out clusters of coloured stars were also much admired; while loud cheering arose from all sides when a number of shells, discharged together, burst far above the heads of the spectators, changing into graceful and glittering forms which charmed the eye and filled the air with light. Cascades, fountains, and trees were represented with wonderful exactness; and perhaps one of the most beautiful features of the display was the formation in the air of sheaves of yellow corn. But the great triumph of the night was that which concluded the exhibition. It consisted of five fixed pieces, all of the most ingenious and elaborate construction, [with the words "God Save the Queen" illuminated in the centre. At the same time there was a grand discharge of Roman candles, batteries of pearl streamers, tourbillons, and rockets in red, green, blue, and yellow. The effect was magnificent, almost magical; and when, in addition to the above, no fewer than 10,000 rockets were shot into the air, the scene was such as can be witnessed only once in a lifetime.

As a pyrotechnic display, then, nothing could have been more successful on the whole than the exhibition in the Green-park, although a sense of fatigue began to be very generally manifested long before it was concluded—a circumstance not to be wondered at when it is recalled that the time occupied was from half-past nine until eleven o'clock; during the whole of which period the ear was deafened by the constant detonations and reverberations, and the eye pained by the dazzling intensity and magnificence of the blaze of artificial light which filled the heavens and illumined the sea of upturned faces.

One word as to the demeanour of the people on the occasion. It was, in truth, deserving the highest credit, and calculated to make one proud of his countrymen. Not a single case of misconduct or riotous behaviour did we hear of or observe. Sobriety marked the bearing of all those hundreds of thousands, and they separated, as they had assembled, in the most peaceable and orderly manner.

HYDE-PARK.

The inclosures for the exhibition in Hyde-park stood on the open space between the Serpentine and the Marble Arch; the frames for the fixed pieces were ranged along two sides of a triangle, the apex towards Grosvenor-gate. As early as seven o'clock an immense number of persons had collected. Several boys climbed up in trees near Park-lane, and after a time some of those below began playfully throwing a load of turf at them; the amusement soon became general, and lumps of earth were flying about in all directions. By the time these persons had got tired of this fun it had become quite dark, and general attention was attracted to the houses along the sides of the park, which commenced to illuminate. The balconies of all the houses commanding the park were decorated, and seats had been erected on the roofs of several. About nine o'clock Dudley-house, the residence of Lord Ward, was lit; the mansion was one blaze of light, every outline of the building and of the verandahs was marked by a line of gas jets. The effect was very brilliant, and the crowd loudly applauded. About half-past nine a rocket from the Green-park gave the signal for the commencement of the exhibition. The first display was a brilliant illumination of white, red, and green fires, with a continuous discharge of maroons. This was followed by a discharge of rockets. The general display was as near as possible the same as that in the Green-park. It was divided, as has been announced, into several

divisions. Each division commenced by a signal shell from the corner of the inclosure: this was followed by a shower of rockets either coloured or parachute. Two fixed pieces exactly similar were then exhibited at the opposite ends of the inclosure, and the division ended with a discharge of shells. Each division also included a battery of streamers or one of squibs or Roman candles. The rockets were magnificent. The colour varied in every discharge: some of them scattered stars of red, blue, and white; others, a shower of streamers or crackers. The shells were also varied: some scattered variegated stars; others, after rising to a great height, seemed to form into a species of incandescent "milky way," which dissolved in a shower of pearl rain. The fixed pieces were also of a very varied character—rocket-wheels, Scotch stars, pointed stars, Maltese crosses, Brunswick stars, and every variety of wheel, cross, and star that pyrotechnic ingenuity could devise. The exhibition concluded with 300 fixed pieces and two fire cascades. The grand discharge of rockets which was to have formed the conclusion was given at a much earlier period. Nothing could be finer than the effect of this discharge; the whole sky was one mass of blazing stars, the tops of the trees were lit up, and the ladies on the houses beyond were distinctly visible. The bright green emerald, the pale sapphire, the gay amber, the pure topaz, the sweet-tinted amethyst, the rich garnet, the blue turquoise, the dark lapis lazuli, the rare jacinth, the elegant onyx, the delicate opal, the gaudy gold, and the brilliant diamond—all gay and glittering colours were there combined, presenting a dazzling profusion of tints such as the eye could never tire to look upon. The persons who visited Hyde-park had an advantage over those in other localities; in addition to the display immediately before them, the rockets and shells from Primrose-hill and the Green-park were seen to great advantage; both continued for some time after they had ceased in Hyde-park. Not a policeman was seen in the park. The crowd commenced moving off immediately on the close of the exhibition; and, notwithstanding the immense crowds, there was not much difficulty in effecting an exit.

PRIMROSE-HILL.

It was generally rumoured throughout the metropolis that the fireworks on Primrose-hill would be on a scale of magnificence surpassing those of the other centres of attraction, and there was an immense concourse to witness the pyrotechnic display which was announced to take place. The persons assembled within the inclosure were mainly of the middle and lower classes, but there was a much larger collection of "roughs" than might have been anticipated. They did not, however, occasion any annoyance to the more respectable portion of the spectators; but, having secured early in the evening such positions as they deemed most favourable for viewing the fireworks, they amused themselves by singing in chorus the "Ratcatcher's Daughter," and other popular songs of the same class, and by "challenging" one another. A large extent of ground occupying the crest of the hill was hoarded off for the purpose of enabling those engaged in preparing the fireworks to perform their duty unimpeded, and to prevent the possibility of accidents. Three frames were erected, two facing the south and one turned to the north side of the hill, for the purpose of giving elevation to the discharges, and interspersed around and between them were piles of ladders, very much resembling small stacks of corn, which were to send off an unaccountable number of pyrotechnic devices. The hoarding extended from St. Edmund's-terrace on the west, to St. George's on the east; and the terraces on both sides being generally illuminated, an extensive and brilliant semicircle of lights was formed, which had a most pleasing effect from the hill. From a comparatively early part of the evening there was a surprising flow of population, some in carriages, many in cabs, omnibuses, and vans, and most on foot, towards the northern cypure. Along the road lining the northern side of Regent's-park, ranks of vehicles, three deep, were drawn up, and it required no small amount of patience, perseverance, and pilotage to steer through their perilous interstices. In hundreds of instances were to be seen the wives of the working classes, with children in their arms, and children around them, seated along the rails which surround the hill, and well content, at the cost of personal toil, with the opportunity of witnessing the national display.

The time appointed for the commencement of the display of fireworks was half-past nine o'clock, and just previously the wind, which blew from the eastward, freshened into a gentle gale, threatening to mar very materially the effect of those specimens of the pyrotechnic art upon which so much labour had been expended. Fortunately, however, the wind subsided, and the exhibition took place under the most favourable circumstances, for scarcely a breath of air influenced the flight of the aerial fireworks, while the darkness of the sky added greatly to their effect. From that moment, in quick and un-mitting succession, discharges of rockets, pearl streamers, parachute-hells, mines, squibs, tailed stars, and tourbillons, continued till a quarter past eleven o'clock. The people seemed highly delighted with the manner in which the display had been effected, and they gave expression to their satisfaction in loud and frequent applause. The houses around the hill and Regent's-park were for the most part illuminated with gas stars, variegated oil lamps, or Chinese lanterns. The crowd in the Regent's-park was also very considerable, and from that open space a fine view was obtained not only of the fireworks on Primrose-hill, but of those in the Green and Hyde Parks, and in Victoria Park. There was also a considerable population on the tops of the houses. The fireworks here were almost exclusively of the class termed "aerial": there were no "set" pieces, no huge stars, no devices which might afford some relief to an uninterrupted shower of rockets and serpents. There was certainly an attempt to represent fiery fountains, but it was a failure, in consequence of the smoke generated by the composition.

VICTORIA PARK.

From about one in the afternoon all the avenues leading to the park, especially those from Hackney and the Mile-end roads, became densely thronged with well-dressed people of all ages and sexes, all wending their way towards the spot where the pyrotechnic building had been erected. To their credit be it recorded that many of our City employers allowed their workmen the use of the spring vans and other vehicles usually employed in the carriage of their merchandise, and in this way woolfamilies were enabled to go to and return from the park without fatigue, and to view the fireworks to more advantage, especially where there were children, than they could have done. Neither these nor any other vehicles were permitted to enter the park. They were drawn up round the boundary, but from them an excellent view of all that was worth seeing must have been had. To at least a distance of half a mile all round from the fencing of "the Victoria" were erected platforms with rows of seats, which the passer-by was informed were the "very best" from which a view of the fireworks could be obtained, and houses fully a mile away had "the very best" windows; their owners, we presume, having based this announcement on the poetical theory "His distance lends enchantment to the view." Improvised platforms, formed of farm carts and costermongers' vans, commanded a high figure, "reserved seats" being engaged and labelled so early as two o'clock in the day. Sitting-room on a scaffolding outside one of the Hackney entrances to the park was even at that hour purchased at 6s. and 10s., according to the height—the higher the dearer.

The preparations for illumination in the neighbourhood of the park were not very general; but when night came on there was a sufficient number of houses lighted up to give the localities around a very pretty appearance. One house on the Park-road was illuminated by Chinese lanterns—a mode of lighting that the Parisians make very effective on such occasions. A gin palace on the Hackney-road had the name "Florence Nightingale" in letters of gas all across its large front. This simple and pretty tribute to our illustrious countrywoman elicited repeated cheers from those who passed the house on their way to the park. On the same road was a transparency representing the Queen and her Royal Consort bounding over the sea in a particularly cool and collected manner, the marine deity who did duty in the box of the chariot in which Queen Victoria was seated apparently soliciting her Britannic Majesty's directions as to the course her steeds were to take. The artist did not tell his story very clearly; but obscurity is a privilege of artists and poets, and in this case the work, which was not at all badly executed, was received with great enthusiasm by the crowds who viewed it on their way past.

By nine o'clock all eyes were directed to the inclosure within which the fireworks were to be discharged, and every movement in that direction was watched with intense anxiety. Everywhere were there people—even thronging scaffolds erected on house-tops. The "signal-rocket" was awaited with great excitement. Twenty-one guns followed as a Royal salute, and then followed the first scene. This consisted of the burning a large quantity of coloured fire all along the line of the tremendous fortifications inclosing the firework-grounds, and the effect against the dense black sky was very striking.

Of the fireworks, as a whole, it may be said that, although they were in tolerable quantity, and by a judicious spreading out lasted quite the prescribed time promised, they were not very novel or very striking. The aerial parts, namely, the flights of rockets and others of their kind, were good; but the framework devices were very much like those of Cremorne, which was not exactly what was expected. However, the spectators were soberly pleased in general, and once or twice broke out into mild applause. On the whole the "Peace Rejoicings" in Victoria-park were a success in the proceedings of the day.

The mass of people was remarkably characteristic. It consisted almost

wholly of one class; nothing could be more homogeneous. Everybody seemed at home; there was an air of confidence in themselves and each other as they wandered leisurely about at first, and finally settled quietly and orderly in places to witness the fireworks, and so continued during the whole time of the display. There was not a single drunken person, and but one policeman, who was stationed at one of the gates. In short, nothing could be more creditable to the inhabitants of this district than their conduct on this occasion. Of course, when the crowd was dispersing, there was some confusion, but nothing which was more disorderly than was inseparable from the breaking up of such a multitude.

PORTSMOUTH.

The whole borough, port, and garrison presented a holiday appearance on the 29th ult. Every shop and establishment was closed, with two exceptions, the dockyard and gun-wharf, some men of each being engaged in expediting the fit out of the *Albion*, 91; *Cesar*, 91; *Majestic*, 81; and *Sanspareil*, 81, screw-ships, in order to enable them to leave for the Crimea to bring home troops. All the ships in harbour and at Spithead were dressed in colours; and the Royal standard was hoisted at the dockyard, on the ramparts, at Hollingsworth's Rooms, the various piers, &c. Southern Common was decked out, at the expense of the borough, with a vast number of flags of all nations, tastefully-constructed arches of evergreen, and one of the landmarks for ships entering the harbour had been turned into a triumphal pillar by means of suitable and ingenious additions and decorations. On the sides of the pillar were inscribed the names of the Allied Powers—England, France, Turkey, Sardinia—and the various engagements in which, during the late war, their armies had, either collectively or individually, distinguished themselves. On the summit of this pillar was the figure of Britannia, holding a flag-staff, from which waved the Royal standard. The Common, or that part of it not required for the movements of the troops, was covered with booths, &c. Thousands were at an early hour attracted here by the brightness of the weather, and ultimately there could hardly have been less than from 40,000 to 50,000 persons congregated together. On the Gosport shore, too, thousands were assembled, as there the Royal Marines and Dorset Militia were to be stationed.

At about half-past eleven the troops began to meet on the Common, each regiment being preceded by its band; and before twelve o'clock they were arranged in line, two deep, in the following order, commencing from the right:—The pensioners of the district, 22nd Foot, Royal Surrey Militia, Staffordshire Militia, Armagh Militia, and the Royal Marine Artillery. The troops assembled on this and the Gosport shore would, with those keeping the ground, be about 4000 men. Those on the common were under the command, for the day, of Colonel Boileau, of the 22nd Regiment, the Lieutenant-Governor, Major-General Breton, being summoned to London. Colonel Boileau was assisted by Captain A. A. Nelson, Deputy-Adjutant-General, and Captain Breton, Town-Major.

At twelve o'clock the Royal Artillery, from the ramparts, commenced their royal salute of twenty-one guns, and after the third gun the troops fired the *feu-de-joie*, commencing from the right of the front line, and returning from the left of the rear. The troops on the Gosport shore then took up the fire, and about the same time the heavy guns of the ships at Spithead and in harbour joined in. The troops at intervals fired a second and a third time, the general effect being very fine; participated in as it was by the band of each regiment playing "God Save the Queen," and the bells of the parish church playing out in the distance. The *feu-de-joie* being finished, the officers and colours advancing a few paces in front, all the troops took off their caps and gave three hearty cheers. They were marched past before Colonel Boileau and staff, headed by their bands, and afterwards left for barracks.

A storm now came on: the Common was soon cleared, and every booth and spot that afforded the least shelter was filled. There was every appearance of the rain continuing all day; but about four o'clock it suddenly cleared up, and by degrees the promenade soon became again thronged with visitors. As soon as it was dusk the fleet at Spithead lighted up, but not so effectively as on the occasion of the late review.

The fireworks on the promenade, however, gave general satisfaction, and the amusements of the day were finished by the lighting up of a large bonfire on the beach: the latter scene our Artist has sketched.

LYNN.

The festivities in this town, although the Corporation declined to take the initiative in the preliminary arrangements, were upon a scale of considerable extent. It was resolved to celebrate the day (Wednesday), the 21st ult., by a public dinner to the children of the various public schools in the town, and, neither the Corn Exchange nor the Athenaeum being adequate for the occasion, as a *déjeuner resort* it was decided to have recourse to the Public Walks, and to give there to the whole of the children a grand open-air festival. The scheme once entertained, subscriptions were opened, committee arrangements organised, and other preparations made in the most complete and expeditious manner for carrying it out with effect. Happily the weather was brilliant, and the result was a successful spectacle.

The day, by desire of the Mayor, was kept as a perfect holiday throughout the town. From an early hour the day was welcomed by the firing of guns and ringing of the church bells. Every available flag, banner, or other similar decoration was displayed on masts, on staffs projecting from the windows, or on lines stretched from house to house across the street. Where any special mottoes were exhibited they were, "Peace and Prosperity," "Peace and Plenty," "Glory to God, Peace on Earth, Good will to Men," &c. The shipping in the harbour also displayed their colours.

The Tuesday market-place was the centre of the population, in holiday attire, numbering many thousands—the centre of the square being kept clear for the children. At twelve o'clock the school children, of the age of six years and upwards, to the number of 230, left their respective schools, accompanied by their teachers and superintendents, and, bearing flag and banners, proceeded to the market-place and arranged themselves in ranks in an order previously fixed. The children in the several ranks were placed four abreast, the boys preceding the girls; and each school displayed flags inscribed with the name of the school, and as many other flags and banners, mottoes, and emblems of peace, as could be mustered. Each child had affixed with ribbons to the breast a large card, on which was printed the following inscription, surmounted by a woodcut of a dove bearing an olive-branch, and followed by the child's name in full:—

Borough of King's Lynn.

Children's Fête

In commemoration of the Peace between England and her Allies

—France, Turkey, and Sardinia—and Russia.

Declaration of War, March 23, 1854. Proclamation of Peace,

May 2, 1856.

Admit ———.

The Sax-horn Band lent their aid, and at a quarter past twelve performed a verse of the National Anthem, to which the whole of the children sang the chorus. Directly afterwards guns were fired from Common Staliquay as a signal to march; and the children, with three hearty cheers, moved off in procession through High-street, headed by the band, and preceded by the Mayor and other members of the Corporation and of the Committee, and Messrs. Wigner and Edwards, two of the stewards.

The procession passed through High-street, St. James's-street, London-road, Valinger's-road, South Everard-street, and back through the London-road again to the Walks, halts being made and three cheers given at the High Bridge and the corners of High-street, St. James's-street, Valinger's-road, and South Everard-street. The entire procession, it was calculated, extended to the length of nearly half a mile. The bells of St. Margaret's were rung as the procession passed the church, and frequently afterwards throughout the day. The schools were accompanied by a dense crowd throughout their line of march. At the entrance to the Walks they were met by the stewards, and conducted to the tables assigned to them. The decoration of the Walks was under the direction of Mr. F. Kendle—a profusion of flags, suspended on lines stretched across from tree to tree, throughout the entire length of the Walks. There were three parallel rows of tables, measuring about 220 yards—giving a total length of 660 yards of table or 1920 yards of sitting accommodation—the whole of which was fully occupied. Under the influence of the brilliant sunshine the scene was delightful; much more so when the 2300 children, with appetites sharpened to the utmost by the morning's parade, were busily engaged in dispatching the good things provided for them. The Sax-horn Band played "The Roast Beef of Old England" whilst the children were taking their place. The carvers numbered 104. The Mayor presided at one of the principal tables, and the joint of beef set before him (weighing some 24 lbs.) was elegantly garnished with flowers and gelatine flags, including the Royal standard, and the French and other colours. The quantities of provisions amounted in the whole to 90 stone of boiled puddings (in 12 lb. puddings), 100 stone of baked puddings, 107 stone of beef (121 pieces), 114 stone of bread. But these quantities of provisions were not entirely consumed by the 2300 children in the Walks. Other schools dined off the same fare, making a total of 2970 persons fed. And besides these the police, the labourers, the band, and others, dined in the Walks after the children, and sufficient pudding was left for an abundant distribution to the poor, including all the inmates of the almshouses, on the following days.

Grace after meat having been said, the Mayor gave "The Queen and the Royal Family," the toast being announced by the crier, and received by the children, all standing on the forms, with "three times three," the band playing "God Save the Queen." "The Peasants and those who won it" was given and received in the same way, the band playing the national airs of Russia, France, and England. Three cheers, still louder, were given for the Mayor. The children were then again marshalled under their banners and led off (in as good order as possible through the immense crowd of town and country people who by this time filled the whole of the Walks) to Goodwin's fields. The public, also, were admitted, and old and young quickly scattered themselves over the wide expanse of sweet grass to enjoy under the unclouded sky the rare treat of a *fête champêtre*.

The event was also celebrated by a party of gentlemen dining at the Globe Inn, under the presidency of the Mayor; and the day's entertainments concluded with a display of fireworks on the Tuesday market-place.

DUBLIN.

The returns of peace and of the Queen's birthday were celebrated in this city, on the 29th ult., with a degree of enthusiasm and splendor not unworthy the happy occasions. The day was one of the finest of the season; the sun shone out warmly and brilliantly; and the night was calm and beautiful. All the public offices and most of the principal mercantile establishments and shops were closed; although the law courts continued their sittings. The programme of celebration comprised three parts—namely, a grand military display in the Phoenix-park, an exhibition of fireworks in the same place in the evening, and the illumination of all the chief public buildings, to which a great many private houses brilliantly contributed. The aspect of the streets during the day bespoke a cessation from business; the numerous flags of Great Britain, France, Sardinia, and Turkey, waved from the houses, and a great many of the vessels in the river. At ten o'clock the flags were raised simultaneously in the companies' steamers, when they fired a Royal salute of twenty-one guns each.

The review of 8000 men in Phoenix-park commenced at one o'clock. At half-past twelve his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant arrived, attended by a brilliant staff, when the Royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and, with musketry and salvoes of cannon, produced an impressive effect. The several manœuvres were executed in fine style. At the close of the evolutions the Lord Lieutenant and the Commander-in-Chief, General Lord Seaton, rode forward with their respective staffs, and received the grand salute from all the troops in line, with lowered standards, the bands playing the National Anthem. The Viceroyal party, escorted by a squadron of lancers, returned to the Lodge, where a distinguished company partook of a sumptuous *déjeuner*. The troops commenced to march from the ground to their respective quarters, and the vast concourse of persons returned with the utmost order and propriety to the city, all highly gratified and pleased with the splendid exhibition they had just witnessed.

THE ILLUMINATIONS.

In addition to the public buildings, a considerable number of the mercantile and trading establishments and hotels were brilliantly and effectively illuminated. We can, of course, describe but a few of the more striking designs.

Sackville-street, as viewed from the centre of Carlisle-bridge, at about ten o'clock, presented a most imposing sight. From the foot of the bridge up to the Rotundo, vast masses of people of all classes might be seen moving in from every direction. Looking down Sackville-street, the graceful projecting portico of the General Post-office stood out beautifully defined. To the south the splendid Corinthian portico of the Bank of Ireland terminated an arcade of lights. On the left the gigantic proportions of the Custom-house and its stately dome rose in fine relief from the brilliant lights which surrounded the quadrangle which it surmounts. On the Burgh-quay side of the river were the tasteful decorations of the Corn Exchange, the Corn Exchange Tavern, and those of the Trafalgar Hotel. A display of the electric light was presented from the top of Nelson's Pillar. The General Post-office bore the words "Alliance," "Peace," with the crown surmounting an Irish harp, below which were placed the initials V. N., A. M., V. E. The decorations of the Sackville-street Club were V. R., a crown, a chastely-designed medallion, and two stars, in gas.

One of the most effective displays was at the Custom-house, which was lit up by rings and halos of circular red lights at its base, which threw into bold relief and exhibited the massive proportions of the dome. "Peace," "Commerce," "Plenty," were on the frieze of the entablature, and the words "Long Live the Queen" on the western front. The northern portico bore between the emblematic statues of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America the letters V. A. and a crown.

Another public building entitled to special commendation was the National Education Board, Marlborough-street. The base was a ribbon scroll, with the words "England, France, Sardinia, and Turkey," in gas jets. Pendent from the centre were four Crimean clasps, bearing the names "Alma, Inkerman, Balaklava, Sebastopol," having attached a large medallion of her Majesty. Above the scroll were the letters V. A. "Victor" (Emanuel) and "Abdul" (Medjid), V. N. "Victoria" and "Napoleon." The intervening space was occupied by laurel wreaths and a magnificent star, surmounted by a pyramid of cannon-balls capped by an inverted cannon, with the various arms of the service arranged circularly across the middle, and crowned by a crescent with the cross of the new "Order of Valour" dominant. The flags of Turkey, Sardinia, France, and England, filled up the vacancies over the initial letters.

The Four Courts had over the central building "Peace," and upon the entablature "Victoria," "Napoleon." The arches of the wings bore illuminated borders. On a scroll on the left were the words "Alma" and "Balaklava," Inkermann and "Sebastopol." The curtain walls bore transparencies illustrative of the regalia of the Allied Sovereigns, surrounded by borders of gas jets.

The Bank of Ireland bore in gas a large Irish harp and crown, "Peace" in gigantic characters, V. A. at either end; the letters N. A. M., and V. E. appeared below, surrounded by a wreath of gas jets, the entire surmounted by a brilliant glory of a vast number of gas jets. On the beautiful Corinthian portico were displayed the initials V. A., and the rose, shamrock, and thistle. The sombre outlines of "Old Trinity," brought distinctly into view, contributed much towards the picture-queeness of the whole scene. On the fine Corinthian portico blazed the letters V. A., and the rose, shamrock, and thistle.

Trinity College bore the arms of the institution, in gas jets, a large crown at each wing of the building, and the letters V. R., a blue light burning brilliantly from the roof.

The Hibernian Gas Company had a star of great magnitude, within a circle of shamrock, all in gas.

The City Hall—"Peace," a crown, and two stars.

The Castle had on the upper yard gate the words "Peace" and "Victoria." On the gates of the lower yard the Imperial and English crowns, with a star in the centre.

Grafton-street.—The Royal Western Yacht Club had its initial letters in full, with an anchor and the letters V. A. The Alliance Gas Company's office displayed in large letters the words "God Save the Queen," above which was placed a brilliant star, entwined with shamrocks, and having on the sides the initials N. E.

Stephen's-green.—The three Clubhouses and the Royal College of Surgeons were brilliantly lighted.

The Mansion-house had the letters V. A., surrounded with the civic crown and armorial bearings. The appearance of this old heraldic device was very pleasing.

Kildare-street.—The entrance-gate of the Dublin Society House bore the word "Peace," surrounded with stars, and the whole ornamented with evergreens.

The Railway termini were splendidly lighted: that of the Kingstown Railway had a large steam-engine in gas jets.

The peat gas was exhibited in Jervis-street from ten to eleven p.m., and again at 11.45. The device was a shamrock, with the word "Turf" underneath.

The Lord Lieutenant and party proceeded in carriages through the city, in which they remained till an advanced hour viewing the illuminations, with which they were evidently much gratified.

THE FIREWORKS.

The scene selected for this display was the inclosed and partly intrenched tract of ground surrounding the tall and majestic obelisk, "Wellington Testimonial." The western face of the obelisk was selected for the display of the emblematic devices. On one side of the pedestal was displayed two flags crossed, the Union Jack, and the French tricolor, while underneath was the motto, "To the Memory of the Brave," flanked on the sides by two vases with floral designs. An area of about eight acres in extent, including the site of the obelisk, was partially inclosed by strong barriers, and partly defended by a deep fosse or intrenchment filled by the waters of a neighbouring stream. Within the outer barrier, at a distance of some thirty or forty yards, was erected a series of wooden frames, six feet in height, fitted up for the display of a front row of firework devices, comprising circles, wheels, stars, &c. To the right of the exhibition-ground was erected a strong framework of timber, some forty feet in height. Farther within the barrier, and on the

inner brink of the fosse, was erected a strong and extensive platform, fronted in imitation of a Russian fort. Within this fort, which represented Sebastopol, a perfect magazine of fiery armament was placed. The battlements were lined with small iron mortars and cannon. At a distant part of the ground commanding the fort an intrenchment and barriers were thrown up for the besieging force. On a slight eminence backed by a clump of young trees was a handsome pavilion for the reception of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, his suite, and party, who arrived at half-past nine o'clock. The fireworks then commenced.

In the programme the Sebastopol attack was described as follows:—"Grand pyrotechnic spectacle representing the last great attack on Sebastopol, with the blowing up of the magazines and works, &c., general conflagration, flitting with fountains of crystal fires and Roman candles, casting their dazzling tails in every direction, and a grand bombardment of aerial projectiles and fiery missiles, hand-grenades, pots de sautoisons, and concluding with a magnificent flight of fifty rockets in the air at one instant, thereby causing a general *feu de joie*, which will literally illuminate the atmosphere for miles round in every direction." This grand description was scarcely realised. In the "attack," myriads of dazzling tails of every colour were hurled about, and the smoke received from red fire a lurid glare, which gave the appearance of a conflagration. Several horizontal rocket-wheels were exhibited. Rockets and Roman candles were discharged from them with crimson stars lighting the atmosphere, and concluding with discharges of sky-rockets, jacks in the box, and serpents. There was also a brilliant illumination of the Testimonial Tree, with coloured fires. The entire display concluded soon after eleven with the lighting up on the west side of the pedestal of the words "To the Memory of the Brave." This illumination was perfect. This was followed by a final discharge of rockets, shells, gerbs, Roman candles, &c.

"God Save the Queen" by all the bands then announced that the spectacle had ended, and the scene was speedily wrapped in darkness. The management of the firework display was confided to Mr. James Robinson, of the Polytechnic Museum, Grafton-street; and the scaffolding and framework were erected under the direction of Mr. Owens, of her Majesty's Board of Works.

Our illustration of the brilliant scene around the Wellington Obelisk was sketched by Mr. James Mahony.

STAMFORD.—The 27th ult. was the day fixed by the inhabitants of this town for celebrating the return of peace. In the Broad-street was erected a monster marquee, in which were arranged down the sides sixty-three tables, the centre being occupied by tables reaching its entire length. The substantial provision for the public dinner, which took place at one o'clock, consisted of 1529 lb. of roast and boiled meat, 600 plum puddings, 800 lb. of potatoes, 422 4-lb. loaves of bread, and 265 gallons of ale. Upwards of 1000 artisans and labourers were admitted to partake of the dinner. At half-past two o'clock there was a grand procession, accompanied by a display of flags, banners, and bands of music, extending half a mile in length. The number taking part in it exceeded 5000. The great object of attraction was a floral-carrying device, or Maypole, with a May Queen seated on her floral throne. The canopy was enriched with a profusion of choice artificial flowers, surmounted by fine red, blue, and white silk banners. The chair or throne was tastefully covered with red, white, and blue cloth and gold, upon which were twelve silk and gold banners and a profusion of flowers. The May Queen was very tastefully attired. At half-past four tea and cake were served in the marquee to 1500 school children, attended by their teachers and other ladies. After the children had retired 2000 women were regaled with tea and cake; the provision for this part of the treat consisted of 2370 lb. of plum cake, 40 lb. of tea, 224 lb. of loaf-sugar, and 23 lb. of gingerbread. The rustic sports, which took place in the evening on a meadow adjoining the town, amused and delighted several thousands of the people. The finale to the day's proceedings was a display of fireworks, under the direction of Mr. Gynge, the concluding piece being a grand Temple of Peace and Concord, formed by 2500 jets of diamonds lights, &c., &c. In addition to the public treat, parties in the town treated their workpeople and other dependents in a liberal manner; and similar kindnesses was extended to the inmates of the several hospitals, almshouses, and the Poor Law Union. On the following Thursday 150 gallons of excellent soup and 100 gallons of good tea were distributed to 500 poor recipients.

TORSHAM.—A grand dinner was given on the 29th ult. at Grimsfield, the property of D. B. Davey, Esq., to celebrate the restoration of peace. Above two thousand poor of Torsham parish partook of the feast, which consisted of roast beef and plum-pudding, with a liberal supply of beer. Tea and cake were also given to the women and children; and rich and poor alike joined in the dance and other amusements.

Among the characteristic devices of the illuminations on the 29th ult. was that by Mr. Moses, curiosity-dealer, 6, Hanway-street; namely, a transparency of V. R., surmounted by laurels; beneath, within a glory, was the following inscription in Hebrew characters:—"And there was Peace throughout the earth. The Lord is a Man of War, and the Lord is his name."

THE REIGN OF TERROR IN KANSAS.—The news from Kansas is quite as bad as our worst apprehensions have ever depicted. The authorities established there by the sanction of the President, through the agency of bowie-knives and revolvers, have established a reign of terror in Kansas. A despatch came over last night from St. Louis, and its authenticity will nowhere be questioned, to the effect that the Pierce pro-slavery men have proclaimed war to the knife against all the free-state men; that they have imprisoned Governor Robinson, with the design of securing and destroying the testimony taken by the investigating committee sent on by Congress; that attempts are made to imprison Governor Reeder and all the witnesses who have been summoned before the investigating committee; that this committee, appointed by the Sovereign Legislature at Washington, is treated with derision and contempt by all Mr. Pierce's agents and office-holders there; and that Lawrence is in a state of siege, expecting the arrival every hour of the armed border ruffians, who have begun their work of slaughter. In the meantime the excitement on the subject is increasing every hour in all quarters; thousands of able-bodied free citizens of the North are emigrating to Kansas, with the determination to make it a free State.—*Letter from New York, May 20.*

A VERY DANGEROUS GANG.—About a year ago the Vienna police received information that the habits and manners of some of the workmen in the suburbs had undergone a very great change; that "the men were more orderly and regular, and less noisy and rude than their fellows." The police suspected that some central club had been formed with branch establishments; and the movements of some of the men were closely watched. Up to Whit-Sunday last nothing more was discovered than that, instead of going to church, they read their Bibles diligently at home, "and were so greatly averse to any kind of ceremony, that if one of their friends died they abstained from following the corpse to the grave." On Whit-Sunday last they held a convective, and were surprised by the police. The persons arrested (between sixty and seventy) call themselves "Brethren of St. John," and belong to a new religious sect. They are suspected of being in connection with the Hungarian Protestants, and it is, therefore, probable that some time will elapse before they are set at liberty.

THE HABIT OF SPIRIT-DRINKING IN AMERICA.—The English frequent taverns, and will enormous quantities of beer and gin. But this only occurs in the evening, and during the daytime it is only the most degraded of the population that one finds haunting the fatal gin-palace. The Londoners of the better class—even the young men—rarely drink by daylight. The general temperance of the Continental nations is so well known that any comments on it would be superfluous. One may see a Frenchman gay and exhilarated; but you rarely see him drunk. It is only the thieves and scoundrels who frequent the *topis franc* that drink brandy in any quantity. The rest of the population take that liquor in thimble-like glasses, that to an American or English eye seem preposterously minute. Now, it is not at all an uncommon thing to hear a young man in this country, when he is summing up his expenses, say, "By Jove! how money does go! Why, although I don't drink very much, I find that my weekly expenses for drinks and cigars amount to more than the sum I pay for my board." A well-known proprietor opened an up-town hotel and bar-room the other day. On the opening day he took in over 400 dollars at the bar alone, and his gross receipts on the entire establishment for the first week were 16,000 dollars. Say that out of the 400 dollars received at the bar 50 dollars were spent in cigars, that leaves a sum equal to 2600 dollars. So that on the day in question the drinking done at that single bar amounts to what would supply the population of a small town with a drink to every inhabitant.—*New York Times.*

THE REMAINS OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—A box has been received at the office of the American Express Company, New York, which contains a portion (perhaps all) of the relics of the unfortunate expedition of Sir John Franklin.—One piece shows a shoe, marked Mr. Stanley (the name is cut into the wood with a penknife); one piece of cane, apparently bamboo; one piece of wood, part of a boat with copper binding; one piece of wood, part of a boat, with the word "Erebus" cut into it; two pieces of binding; one piece of crage; one piece of leather, the inside of a bag; one piece of metal, the gradual part of a barometer; one piece of ivory, part of a mathematical parallel ruler; one piece of ivory, apparently part of a mathematical instrument. This box was received from the Hudson's Bay House, Lachine, and is forwarded to the Hudson's Bay House in London.

PARAL BIGOTRY.—An English lady lately lost a daughter at Rome, and on the tomb (which was in the English Protestant cemetery) she wished to have the verse from St. Matthew, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," inscribed; but it appears that some officer connected with the censorship entered the workshop of the sculptor who was working at the tomb, and forbade him inscribing more than the first half of the verse, as he said it was neither right nor just that heretics should see the Lord.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The gold medal given annually by Prince Albert, as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, for the best English poem, has been awarded to Oswald William Wallace, of Emmanuel College.

The Emperor of Russia passed through Berlin at one o'clock on Tuesday morning, on his way from Potsdam to St. Petersburg.

The Emperor of the French quitted St. Cloud on Sunday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, in an open carriage drawn by post-horses, and without any escort. At twenty-five minutes past two he left for Lyons by a special train. He entered Lyons on Monday morning at half-past ten o'clock, amid the enthusiastic acclamations of the entire population.

The Earl Granville will not leave England for St. Petersburg, where the noble Lord goes as Ambassador Extraordinary to the coronation of the Emperor Alexander, until the last week in July or second week in August.

The Grand Duke Michael, the Czar's brother, is talked of as a husband for the Princess Sidonia, daughter of the King of Saxony.

King Otho of Greece is expected to visit Vienna on the 14th inst.

The state apartments of Windsor Castle are closed to the public till further orders, with the view of making preparations for the reception of her Majesty's distinguished visitors during the Ascot race week.

The Emperor Alexander is about to visit Riga, and on the 10th inst. will hold a grand military review.

King Ferdinand invited Poerio to ask his pardon, but without effect, as his victim disdained to sue for mercy from the man who he knew would only relax his persecution under fear from without.

The Count de Morny will set out for St. Petersburg about the end of this month. There will be eight carriages and twenty horses for himself and his suite, which will consist of fifty persons.

Prince Oscar of Sweden has gone on an excursion to visit the principal seaports of France. He will return to Paris before the baptism of the Imperial Prince.

Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the honour of her patronage on the proposed hall for the benefit of the Royal Caledonian Asylum and the Royal Scottish Hospital. The ladies have met in committee, and arranged several fancy dress quadrilles.

After the baptism of the Prince Imperial, the French Emperor will leave for the Baths of Plombières at the same time that the Empress will proceed to the Chateau de Biarritz, where the Emperor will afterwards join her Majesty.

Accounts have been received from Vienna of the death of the daughter of Prince Nicolas Esterhazy, granddaughter of the Countess of Jersey.

The Archduke Maximilian, before leaving St. Cloud, gave 20,000*fr.* to be divided among the servants, and presented the *regisseur* with a diamond pin bearing his initials.

The marriage of Donna Amalia of Spain and Prince Adalbert of Bavaria will most likely take place about the middle of next month.

At a ball held in the city of Warsaw, at which the Polish nobility were present, the Emperor of Russia announced that he had signed a general amnesty, which was to extend to all the Polish refugees and emigrants.

The Prince Regent of Baden has granted a pardon to six unfortunate men who have been imprisoned for political offences since 1849. An extension of this clemency to others is hoped for.

It is said that the Czar's visit to the Court of Prussia has been prompted by his desire to see the Danubian Principalities united under the sovereignty of a German Prince.

It is rumoured that Major-General Windham, "the hero of the Redan," will be brought forward as a candidate for the representation of East Norfolk at the general election.

The Queen Dowager of Denmark is about to undertake a journey to Ems, and it is thought not impossible that she may come to Paris.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Chisholm Anstey, her Majesty's Attorney-General for Hong-Kong, to be a member of the Legislative Council of that colony.

A long consultation of physicians took place on the 27th ult. at Sans Souci, which was rendered necessary by the state of the Empress Dowager of Russia. The majority were in favour of her Majesty going to the baths of Wildbad, but she herself expresses a wish to go to Ems.

Lord Seaton has directed Major-General Cochrane, commanding the Dublin district, to hold an inquiry into the conduct of certain officers of the 16th Lancers in Dublin, which led to their expulsion from the Hibernian United Service Club.

Advices from Athens state that the French Minister has received leave of absence, and is gone to Paris.

The health of Mr. Baron Platt is much improved. His Lordship resumed his judicial duties in the Court of Exchequer on Saturday.

King Ferdinand of Portugal arrived on the 20th ult. at Tangiers, where he was received by the Pacha with all the honours due to his rank.

Mr. Labouchere has appointed the Hon. Harry Grey his private secretary, in the room of Lord Sandon.

The Austrian Finance Minister calculates on being able to make a very considerable reduction in the expenditure of the departments of War and Justice.

The Turkish Government opened a credit of 150,000*fr.* to defray the expenses of the grand ball given to the Queen.

An Imperial ukase places the educational establishments of Russia under the Emperor's special superintendence. A draught plan for constituting a Board of Education, with the assistance of a committee of learned men, has been submitted to the Emperor.

M. Kossuth received exactly the same sum for his two lectures at Darlington that he did at Leeds—namely, £105.

Great excitement prevailed on the Bourse on Saturday last in consequence of the failure of M. Place, one of the directors of the *Crédit Mobilier*, with engagements to the extent of 18,000,000*fr.* or £720,000 sterling.

The Diet of the Duchies of Coburg and Gotha have adopted a bill for introducing trial by jury, by twelve votes against seven.

Private letters received in Paris state that Mazzini has gone, it is thought, to Switzerland.

The Nation states that three of the Irish political exiles, John Dillon, John Martin, and Kevin O'Doherty, have this week arrived in Ireland, and that Smith O'Brien may be expected in the course of next month.

The *Revue de Paris* has received two warnings, one after the other, for articles which, "under the appearance of treating historical subjects, contain pointed allusions amounting to attacks on the present institutions of the country."

At a meeting of literary gentlemen held last week in the Café Royal, Regent-street, Edinburgh, Professor Blackie in the chair, it was unanimously agreed to form a national association for the encouragement of literature and the especial advantage of its professors and cultivators, to be called the Scottish Literary Institute.

The *Constitutionnel*, speaking of the French budget, congratulates the country that there is an estimated surplus of 15,000,000 francs for 1857, while it acknowledges that the budget of 1854, despite of a promised surplus, ended with a deficiency to the extent of 70,000,000 francs.

Some bricklayers' labourers on strike at Manchester have been committing serious outrages—beating the labourers who remain at work, and attacking the works themselves. Sixteen of the offenders have been arrested.

Said Pacha has expressed his intention of vigorously pushing the works of the railway in the desert between Cairo and Suez after the termination of the present fasting month of Ramadan, so that the line may be completed in the course of next year.

By a recent decision of the Poor-law Board, a charge for cost of conveyance of paupers to the place of their settlement is illegal, except under an order of removal.

On the 29th ult. a service was celebrated in the Church del Corpus Domini, Turin, for the repose of the Florentine soldiers who fell on the 29th of May, 1848, fighting at Curtatone and Montanara against the Austrians.

The foundation-stone of a new grammar-school for the education of the middle classes was laid at Nantwich, last week, by Mr. G. F. Wilbraham, at whose personal cost it is to be erected and endowed.

Great festivities and a grand review of all the Egyptian troops are to take place this month in commemoration of Said Pacha's advent to the Pashalik of Egypt.

On Monday morning the Regent of Baden paid a visit to Westminster Abbey and the two Houses of Parliament.

The fountain of Vaucluse presents at this time the most magnificent sight, from the great increase of its waters. It is now a complete river, and has for some time past attracted a number of persons to the spot.

Mr. W. H. Osborn, of Perry Pont House, Perry Barr, Staffordshire, has at the present time a perfectly green rose in flower in his rose-house. It is of a full rich green, and is perhaps more interesting on account of its novelty than for its beauty.



THE PEACE CELEBRATION.—THE FIREWORKS, SKETCHED FROM THE MALL, IN ST. JAMES'S-PARK.—(SEE PAGE 634.)



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION AT LYNN.—SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, IN THE PUBLIC WALKS.—(SEE PAGE 631.)

THE UNIVERSAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN PARIS, 1856.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

This Exhibition opened on Sunday (1st June) with great success. So numerous, so varied, so valuable a collection of animals has never before been made in any country; and never has any city possessed a building so well suited to such a purpose as the Palais de l'Industrie in the Champs Elysées. The Illustrations of the French Exhibition which appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS last year will have given your readers a general idea of its form and arrangements. At present it consists of a hollow, glass-roofed square, which has been converted into a beautiful garden—an English garden they call it—with grass-plats of turf, tall evergreen trees, and beds of rhododendrons, roses, geraniums, and other brilliant-coloured flowers, partly growing, partly cut, and daily renewed, forming a horticultural and floricultural exhibition, with a very pretty general effect, although of no special importance, considered separately. The three well-known fountains are in full play, and their lower basins contain an exhibition of fish, some of considerable size, which are the result of the new process of artificially stocking rivers. Two lofty aviaries, filled with birds of the most gorgeous plumage, complete the ornamental part of the ground-floor. On each of the pillars supporting the nave the flags of the various nations exhibiting are arranged, each pair of pillars being connected with garlands of leaves and flowers; while from the roof trill tailed bannerets of red, blue, green, and peach colour, bordered with gold stripes and covered with golden bees, representing the Imperial author of the Exhibition. So much for the coup-d'œil, on entering the Palace, which can only be imagined by those who visited the Industrial Exhibition last year.

The hollow square, or garden-court, unlike our Sydenham Palace, is bordered on each side by solid galleries of considerable depth. Under these galleries the cattle are arranged in separate stalls, seven deep, with a broad passage covered with asphalt between each double row of stalls, and a narrow passage between the heads.

The sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, and rabbits are arranged in temporary marquees outside, between the Palace and the river Seine, very much after the plan of the exhibitions of our Royal Agricultural Society.

The building is under a sort of military discipline, which has at any rate one advantage—the cleanliness is as perfect as in a London horsedealer's stables, and that is perfection. It would be well if the public staircases of some of the Parisian mansions were as sweet and clean.

In the yard near the sheep are the heavy agricultural implements. In the galleries of the Palace the light ones, and also a collection of agricultural produce of many countries and climates—from Catalonia to Holstein—but of no great importance. At each end of the building upstairs are two refreshment-rooms, where eatables and drinkables are to be had on moderate terms of good quality; and on the ground-floor an establishment is open for the sale of the pure milk of the numerous cows exhibited.

The Palace contains, allowing for deaths and accidents, upwards of two thousand head of agricultural stock, exclusive of goats and poultry. In this gross number the cattle alone amount to thirteen hundred; the sheep to nearly six hundred; the rest are hogs—designated more scientifically in the French Catalogue as "race bovine, ovine, and porcine."

In cattle, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the produce of British stock, occupy by far the largest and most important part of the bovine department. Of short-horns alone, British and foreign, there are one hundred and thirty-three. Among the owners some familiar names appear; as, for instance, Townley, Stratton, Lord Feversham, Gunter, Lord Clancarty, Lord Monk, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Stewart Marjoribanks, Lord Hill, and others better known at the Highland Society's shows than in England. There are also a considerable number of French exhibitors of pure stock and some Belgians. The short-horns appear again largely in the classes for cross races. Of Herefords only five head were entered; three by Mr. Fisher Hobbes, but not one from the celebrated breeders of Shropshire and Herefordshire. Of Devons and Sussex there are only fifteen head, all but one shown by Englishmen. Among them the stereotyped names of Turner, Quartley, and Farthing appear.

The Scotch, who have organised their general representation with the talent they always display in agricultural affairs, have sent a splendid show of Ayrshires—upwards of ninety; of polled black Galloways forty; and thirty of the picturesque long-horned black and dun West Highlanders.

The Irish Society shines most in the short-horn department—indeed, Ireland seems the natural country of the short-horns—but also sends a large selection of the little Kerrys.

Indeed, the Paris Exhibition will afford many English farmers their first opportunity of seeing the breeding-stock of Scotland and the milking-stock of part of Ireland; for the polled and horned Highlanders only reach us as oxen, and the Kerry cows rarely come at all, as they cannot compete with the Alderney.

But, leaving utility on one side, by far the most interesting and picturesque part of the Exhibition commences when we leave the civilised and cultivated races, and wander among the rows of pure native breeds which have not been corrupted into plumpness at the sacrifice of native activity, by depending on fenced inclosures and careful herdsmen, instead of their own activity and instinct.

Among the curiosities of the Exhibition are three Hungarian buffalos, sent by Count Tassilo Festetics, of Veszthely, one being dun, the others black, dangerous-looking animals, but showing more promise of beef about the rump than most of the Continental cattle of a more placid disposition. Still more curious than the buffalos are three Hungarian cattle (two oxen and one cow), with a calf a few days old. They are quite white, very large in the leg, without a place anywhere on which it would be possible to grow either fat or much meat, with horns pointing nearly straight up in the air, from four to five feet long, and very sharp. It is impossible to imagine anything more picturesque or unprofitable. Unfortunately, no bull was sent. I should like to have compared one with the wild white bulls in Lord Tankerville's park. There is a certain resemblance in the form, but the horns are more like those of an antelope than of any breed of cattle I have ever before seen. It seems that these cattle are from a herd formed from the original race of Lower Hungary, in 1803, by the father of Baron Ladislas Wenckheim, of Bekes (Hungary), who now sends them; and that they "have been improved by crossing with the beautiful race of the celebrated Baron Orizyche." For twenty years they have been treated as a distinct race; and is stated, as a proof of their value, that "they live in the open air all the winter, with no other shelter than open sheds." They would be a valuable and attractive addition to our Zoological Gardens; but the proprietor would do well to substitute on his plains of grass the West Highlander, which would be quite as hardy and many times more profitable. The Hungarian herdsmen are not less remarkable than their cattle—fine, Oriental-looking, keen-eyed, muscular

fellows, whom I shall have occasion to describe when the Illustrations now making (through the kindness of M. Saint Marie, the Director in Chief) are engraved. The building is much enlivened by the various costumes and singular physiognomies of the herdsmen and shepherds from Poland, also from Hungary; shepherds in white kilts and other costumes from Bohemia, the Tyrol, Switzerland, and Bretagne. One of the Tyrolese is about the size of Paul Bedford, with the corporation of an alderman;—of course his appearance in a short jacket is anything but poetical. On Friday, the 30th, the Emperor and Empress (in a Bath chair) inspected the Exhibition, and held a kind of levee of the more costumed herdsmen and shepherds. They sang their national songs and danced their national dances with a vigour that drew very hearty applause and laughter from the Imperial pair. One Tyrolese, or Swiss, very coolly rested his long horn on the Emperor's chair while blowing a final note.

But I shall return to these real originals in due season. It is worth noting that the Hungarian sheep with coarse wool and jet black deer-like heads have also, like the cattle, straight spiral horns.

So far the Exhibition is a great success, and must be of infinite benefit to France and the whole Continent. The building is admirably adapted for its purpose, and the persons in charge are most attentive and obliging. The prizes given are very liberal, and, although not yet formally announced, I know that the British Islands will carry off a large share in stock as well as implements; but, while doing full justice to the intentions of the French Government I am bound to say that "French administration," of which we have heard so much praise lately, has broken down and produced a perfect "Balalaava" of confusion in the whole of the machinery department, and part of the stock arrangements. There is no central authority, orders given on paper have never been published or put in force, and a perfect anarchy reigns between the chiefs of the innumerable subdivisions.

As for the trials of implements, they were a perfect farce in almost every section: half were not tried at all. Subsoil ploughs were made to follow each other in a line in the same trench! An oil-cake crusher was tried with oats, and steam-engines galloped thrashing-machines at the rate of forty miles an hour!

In the Short-horn Section the whole of the British jurors have refused to sign the award, having been outvoted by gentlemen who did not know a red short-horn from a red Alderney. But for these difficulties the French Government is not responsible. An order just published to prolong the Exhibition until the 14th has created both alarm and discontent among our exhibitors of stock. In other respects our countrymen have every reason to be satisfied: they cannot learn a single idea in implements or borrow a single cross in stock, but they sell plenty of both.

Paris, 2nd June, 1856.

S. S.

EXTRAORDINARY CHANGES IN THE WIND'S DIRECTION AT THE BEESTON OBSERVATORY.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

The following chart will show the great wind changes which occurred between 6h. 45m. a.m. and 6h. 45m. p.m. on the 24th of May, as written by the "Atmospheric Recorder." Heavy thunder-showers occurred from noon till 6h. 30m. p.m., yet throughout the day the air was quite calm. The wind had been E.N.E. from 6h. 15m. p.m. on the 23rd until 6h. 45m. on the 24th, when it moved through E. to S.E., at 10h. 15m. moved through S. to E., at 11h. 15m. became N.E., at 12h. 15m. moved to S. by W., at 12h. 30m. back to E. by S., at 4h. 5m. became S.S.W., at 4h. 30m. through S. to E., at 4h. 35m. moved to N. by W., at 4h. 45m. to N. by E., at 5h. N.E., and at 6h. 45m. p.m. became E.N.E., in which quarter it remained till 3 a.m. on the 25th.

During the showers the electricity was powerful and negative, becoming positive on the cessation of rain. The electricity was most powerful at noon and at 6h. p.m.: at the latter hour two flashes of lightning were within 750 yards of this place. I am, &c., E. J. Lowe.

Observatory, Beeston, near Nottingham, May 26, 1856.

The dotted line A is the base line for an east wind.

The dotted line B a north wind if the curved line passes in the direction towards N, or a south wind if in the direction towards S.

The dotted line C is the base line for a west wind.

Figure 1, the wind's direction at 6h. 45m. a.m.
 " 2, " " " at 10h. 30m. a.m.
 " 3, " " " at 12h. 30m. p.m.
 " 4, " " " at 11h. 45m. a.m.
 " 5, " " " at 4h. 0m. p.m.
 " 6, " " " at 5h. 30m. p.m.
 " 7, " " " at 4h. 30m. p.m.
 " 8, " " " at 6h. 45m. p.m.

THE CZAR AT BERLIN.—There has been a very brilliant parade to-day (under den Linden) in honour of the young Emperor. The whole party arrived here between nine and ten o'clock from Potsdam, and proceeded at once to the Schloss, whence, at the appointed time, they appeared on the ground where the parade was held. The troops reviewed consisted of the entire garrison of Berlin, together with the 3rd Regiment of Lancers, which had been summoned to march up from their quarters as a surprise to their Imperial Colonel. About half-past ten o'clock the King came on the space in front of the Zeughaus, attended by all the Princes, and all the guests of distinction now here; after a few minutes of inspection and issuing of final orders, an adjutant was dispatched to the Schloss to inform the Emperor that all was in readiness, upon which the King, attended by his staff and suite, rode a few paces off the ground, and took up a position by the side of Rauch's monument of Frederic the Great. After a short time the Emperor appeared, followed by a brilliant suite, hardly less numerous than that attending the King; on this the latter advanced at the head of his staff in formal order, with his sword drawn: so that the two Monarchs met and saluted in the centre of the open space between the Opera-house and the University. After the interchange of a few words the two Monarchs turned their horses' heads the same way, and commenced their ride along the front of the troops drawn up by regiment, the infantry on the south side, the cavalry on the north side of the Linden, and the artillery on the Pariser Platz by the Brandenburg Thor. In addition to the Grand Duke Michael and all the Royal Princes at present in Berlin, there were in the combined suite of the King and Emperor, as they moved along Unter den Linden to-day, the Crown Prince of Wurtemberg, the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, the Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, the Duke of Nassau, and Prince Frederick of Hesse. Every species of uniform in Germany appeared to have found a representative in the brilliant and many-coloured throng of horsemen who composed this cavalcade of about 130 to 150 persons. After the Emperor had returned with the King from riding along the line, he took up his position in front of the bronze statues of Blucher, Gneisenau, and York, near the Opera-house, with all the combined suites grouped at each side in order of seniority, and the troops defiled before him. As soon as the mounted gendarmes had led the way the King put him in at the head of the remaining troops, and led them past in front of his Imperial guest, followed first in order by a whole regiment of young cadets of the military schools here; when the 3rd Regiment of Lancers came up the Emperor placed himself at their head, and led them before and past the King, who had in the meantime taken up his place also in front of the above-mentioned statues. The Queen and the Princesses, attended by the ladies of their household, viewed this parade from the windows of the Princess's palace.—Letter from Berlin, May 31.

Mr. Layard, M.P., arrived at Constantinople on the 20th ult., and has been entertained by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS IN FRANCE.

The French papers are filled with accounts of the floods in different parts of the country. At Lyons the Saone had not reached a greater height than it had done ten days ago, but the Rhone has risen above the level which it attained in 1840 and 1851. The Guillouère, the Brouteaux, as far as Vallemorane and La Mouche, were all under water, and could only be reached by boats or in carriages. In the city the gallery of the Hôtel Dieu, the Place Bellecour, a great part of the Place de la Charité, and all the adjoining streets, were completely flooded. At the Quai de la Charité two steamers were moored, with their steam up, ready for any emergency. All the line of the quays on the right bank, from the Pont Morand to that of the Hôtel Dieu, was covered with water. On the left bank, the top of the Quai d'Aubert was only a few inches above the level of the river. A number of soldiers were at work at the head of this quay in throwing up embankments to protect the new works of defence in course of construction.

About half-past one on Saturday last the dyke of the Grand Champ gave way to the extent of 150 yards. Eleven hundred men belonging to the army of Lyons were at work near the fort which is being constructed there, and they were thus cut off, the water having formed a complete lake round the place. Information of the event was immediately sent to Marshal de Castellane, who immediately went towards the place, and gave orders for organising means for bringing them off by boats. Reports were at one time in circulation that a great number of soldiers had been drowned, but those rumours happily turned out to be unfounded. The fort of La Vitrolerie has been flooded, and has been evacuated by the soldiers. The traffic on the M-ditterraanea and St. Etienne Railways continues interrupted. The line of electric telegraph wires has been cut off. The road from Lyons to Geneva is broken up in several places. It was reported that the Lake of Geneva had overflowed its banks and caused considerable damage. At Rochecardon a mill has been carried away. At Valence the Rhone covers all the lower parts of the town, Vizille and Bourg d'Oisans are also inundated. At Vienne all the manufactories in the suburbs are stopped by the places being inundated. At Tournon most of the streets are impassable, except by boats. At Avignon the Il de la Barthelasse, the quays, and the low streets are all under water. The river Romanesche has overflowed its banks and inundated all the plains; several bridges have been washed away. The Isère, the Gier, the Cher, the Loire, the Loiret, and all the rivers leading into them, have also broken over their banks, and indeed the same account is given from almost every part of the country.

When the dyke of the Tête d'Or, near the Grand Champ, gave way, the water covered the east plains with great rapidity. The tocsin was sounded in all the surrounding villages to give the alarm. Many persons were surprised in their sleep, and could only save themselves, half-dressed, by wading through the water, leaving all their property at the mercy of the flood. Many were compelled to remain in their houses, and wait until assistance could be brought to them. The embankment thrown up to the north of the Brotteaux protected the chemin de ronde in that direction; but a little further to the east the water broke furiously through a breach into that part called La Petit Californie, behind the Pré aux Clercs, and through the Rue Massena the water rushed like a cataract. The establishment of the Petites Soeurs des Pauvres was inundated; and it was found necessary to remove all its inmates to the Hôtel Dieu in waggons. The directors of the Maison du Saint-Enfant Jesus brought out their children one by one on their backs, and the sick were laid on mattresses and placed on rafts hastily made for the purpose, and thus carried to a place of safety. At every moment boats and omnibuses might be seen setting down their freight at the Hôtel de Ville and in the Cours Morand, which remained clear of the water, and where an immense number of persons passed the remainder of the night. Some of them had been able to save a few clothes, but most of them had only what they stood in, and these were drenched with water. Cries and moans were heard in every direction, women seeking their husbands and their children, and the children calling for their mothers. Horses, cows, and sheep were also seen prowling about, and uttering cries of hunger and alarm. It appears impossible to form any correct idea of what accidents have taken place, nor can it be correctly ascertained until the water shall have subsided, and circulation be once more free. At the Brotteaux several houses were washed down before the inhabitants could be got out. At Charpenne a man, his wife, and their child were buried beneath the ruins of their house. A boat with several persons who had been saved from a house upset, and all were drowned. The Rhone is constantly bringing down furniture, cattle, and sheep. Many small houses, built of framework and brick, have been washed away bodily from their foundations at the Brotteaux, and are seen floating about with the current.

A DAILY SCENE.

A dim light in the window, Deep straw around the gate, And silence, lingering as in pain Some closing breath to wait.	Some flower beloved that bloomed in vain, Some joy that could not last; Some hope that darkened into pain; Some grief that shrouds the past.
Is it a mother that departs? A sire, whose course is o'er? A child, mid tears and breaking hearts, That speeds to death's mute rest?	Another sun hath bathed the lawn In light, and golden air; The dead hath found another dawn, dawn which Angels share.
Doth friend lose friend? Some comrade old That early boyhood knew— When, like a lamb from Nature's fold, Life drank the morning dew.	Around the house a sadness steals, A weight that pains the brow; There is no fear of rolling wheels, No need of caution now.
We know not. This alone we know: There is no home but tells Some sorrow in this world below Of graves and funeral bells.	Nor deep straw, borne aside, To tell us in that darkened home Some heart hath loved—and died.

CHARLES SWAIN.

POPULAR AND BLACKWALL TRADE AND NAVIGATION SCHOOL.—This school has been founded by Mr. Green, in the Sailors' Home, East India-road, under the direction of the Board of Trade Department of Science and Art, and consists of two divisions, viz., an evening trade school and a day navigation school. Although the trade school has not been opened more than three weeks it already numbers eighty pupils, and others are waiting for admission. No person is admitted into the trade school unless he can read and write tolerably, and has a correct knowledge of the first four rules of arithmetic. The main object of this school is to instruct workmen and others in the technical processes upon which our progress in the industrial arts chiefly depend. Great attention is paid to arithmetic, algebra, and practical geometry. To these subjects are added mechanics, chemistry, surveying, shipbuilding, and mechanical drawing. The brickmaster of the Wandsworth Trade School has been appointed one of the science masters of the trade division of the school. The navigation school is under the direction of Mr. Bolt, a gentleman who was educated at the Royal Naval School, Greenwich, and thoroughly conversant with all the details of nautical science. This school is intended for the professional education of masters, mates, and midshipmen in the merchant service. The school is well supplied with nautical and scientific instruments. Both departments of the school appear likely to be very successful. The general superintendence is intrusted to Captain Furnell and Mr. E. Hughes.

SHIPWRECKED MARINERS SOCIETY.—The seventeenth annual meeting of this institution was held on Friday, the 30th May, at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Lord Haddo, M.P., was the chair. Mr. Francis Lean, R.N., the secretary, read the report, which stated that no less than 3035 vessels wrecked, foundered at sea, or abandoned, had been reported at Lloyd's during the past year, and in consequence of which the society had relieved 5890 persons, including 2368 widows, orphans, and aged parents, and 3423 mariners and fishermen, who had been assisted to replace their clothing or boats, lost or damaged by storms, in all 55,588 persons since the formation of the society in 1839. The average increase of subscribers amongst the seafaring classes at 2s. 6d. each had been 4000 per annum during the last five years, making now a total of 42,000. Reward for saving life on the high seas and coasts of the Colonies have been given since January, 1851, to the amount of £577 10s., besides ten gold and forty-seven silver medals for assisting at the saving of 1893 lives! The circulation of the society's quarterly magazine, "The Shipwrecked Mariner," at the low price of 6d. per number, or 2s. 4d. per year, through the past, had been productive of much good to the society; and the report concluded with thanksgivings to God for the rapid increase both of its funds and of its usefulness. Resolutions of thanks to the five hundred honorary agents round the coasts, the lady and gentlemen collectors, and the coast-guard and other public bodies, having been moved and seconded by Admiral Walcott, Rev. George Smith, Montague Gore, Esq., Dr. Sparks, R.N., Rev. W. B. Payne, Captain the Hon. Francis Maude, Mr. Smith, R.N., George A. Brograve, Esq., and Sir Edmund Lyons, the proceedings terminated with the usual compliment to the chairman.

A Synod of the Rabbis of France and Algeria is about to be held in Paris shortly, with the object of examining the propriety of transferring the observance of the Jewish Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

On Wednesday week Lord Palmerston rode on horseback from his official residence in town to Epsom Downs, saw the races, and rode back—a feat which not many men of seventy-two years of age would be very willing to undertake.

THE EXTERNAL COMMERCE OF BRITISH INDIA.*

TOWARDS the close of the seventeenth century, Dr. Davenant, an eminent political writer of the day, denounced the East India trade as detrimental to the mercantile interests of England and of all Europe. "If all Europe," he observed, "by common consent would agree to have no further dealings to those parts, this side of the world by such a resolution would certainly save a great and continual expense of treasure." He then estimated the amount of gold and silver brought into Europe during the two hundred years which preceded the year 1688 at eight hundred millions sterling, and concluded that, out of that immense sum, one hundred and fifty millions had been carried to the East Indies and there permanently detained. Eighteen centuries have elapsed since Pliny described India "as the sink of the precious metals." So early as the days of Tiberius the abstraction of the gold and silver currency of the empire, by the incessant drain of foreign commerce, was loudly complained of by the Roman writers; and it was the commerce of the East which first induced this destructive export of its metallic treasures.

"The objects," says Gibbon, "of Oriental traffic were splendid and trifling; silk—a pound of which was esteemed worth a pound of gold—precious stones, and a variety of aromatics, were the chief articles. The labour and risks of the voyage were rewarded with incredible profit; but it was made on Roman subjects and at the expense of the public. As the nations of Arabia and India were contented with the produce and manufactures of their own country, silver, on the side of the Romans, was the principal, if not the only, instrument of commerce. It was a complaint worthy of the gravity of the Senate that, in the pursuit of female ornaments, the wealth of the State was irrecoverably given away to foreign and hostile nations. The annual loss is computed by a writer of an inquisitive but censorious temper (Pliny) at £800,000 sterling."

Eight hundred thousand pounds a year—equivalent to about two millions of modern money—must have been a severe drain upon the supply of the precious metals in the Roman empire, the metallic resources of which were far inferior to those of England even before the discovery of Australia. After the lapse of eighteen centuries, Colonel Sykes has proved the same tendency of bullion to escape from Europe to Asia. The Company's rupee was first issued from the Indian mints in the years 1835-36; and it appears from the official returns of the silver coinage that, from that date up to the years 1853-54—being a period of nineteen years—individuals carried to the Indian mint, for the purpose of being coined into rupees, forty-two millions sterling in silver. Moreover, old coins were called in, or received from parties voluntarily offering them, to the value of more than twenty millions sterling: in the whole, sixty-six millions and a quarter have been coined in the nineteen years.

From copious and lucidly-arranged statistical tables, Colonel Sykes has shown that for the last twenty years the balance of trade has annually increased in favour of British India, and that such balance has been paid in bullion. This perennial drain he considers constant, the products of India being, from year to year, more and more actively in demand, while its foreign wants remain stationary; on which relation between exports and imports he makes the following reflections:—

It is of grave importance, therefore, to merchants trading with India that they should have a clear and comprehensive view of those normal conditions which indicate that their export trade in goods seems to have attained its maximum, while their import of Indian commodities has been annually increasing; and not less important is it that the bullionists and bankers of England, and of other countries, should be constantly and fully alive to the exhaustive process of the Indian trade.

That a drain of gold from this country, under our monetary system, paralyses trade by suspending industry, driving it into compulsory idleness, or at least relaxing its energies, is a lesson taught by frequent and painful experience; but to assert that a nation becomes richer or poorer by the export or import of bullion is a grave, but unhappily not yet an exploded, error. Surely none will affirm that Australia is impoverished by shipping her gold to England, or that England is enriched by its reception. All trade must resolve itself into the exchange of equivalents, or the trade would be discontinued. If we give the United States, in a season of scarcity, gold for wheat, we merely part with one commodity and obtain another; and the operation is no more than the barter of equal values for equal values. Regarded, then, simply, as a commercial process, and without any reference to our monetary system, the payment of any balance of trade due to British India in the precious metals is a matter of perfect indifference, since we get an equivalent under another form. We have no desire to misstate the views of Colonel Sykes; but the inference we deduce from his premises is that he considers a metallic liquidation of an adverse balance as a serious evil. This is merely to fall back on the old dogma of the mercantile system.

It is, however, most desirable that a taste for the consumption of British manufactures should be encouraged among the natives of India. If the consumption could be brought up to an average of only five shillings per head, it would create an export trade of forty millions sterling annually. In one sense it is true that the foreign wants of our Eastern population are very limited, and appear to be stationary at that contracted limit; but this is not in the order of nature: human wants are insatiable, and they seem to be so ordained to stimulate industry and invention. It is the craving after objects of gratification that creates markets. In fact, every man's mouth is a market, and every man's hand is a producer. An oriental sun and a tropical climate no doubt indispose men to that continuous and hard labour which the inhabitants of northern regions willingly undergo; but that reluctance to toil which many writers ascribe to Eastern indolence is really due to the insecurity of property, or to that rapacious taxation which leaves to the industrious classes no higher recompense than the means of a bare subsistence. Give the natives of India fair wages and constant employment, and they will soon aim at a higher standard of living, in their dwellings, their clothing, and their dietary, and as they are elevated in the scale the greater will be the prosperity of our manufacturing districts.

"The staple exports from Bengal (as stated by Colonel Sykes) are cotton, indigo, opium, silk piece goods, sugar, oil-seeds, salt-petre, raw silk, and grain. The great consumer of all these articles is the United Kingdom, excepting for cotton and opium, in which articles China precedes all other countries. China also takes a good deal of salt-petre. France follows the United Kingdom in indigo, but America precedes France in the consumption of silk goods, salt-petre, and sundries, but falls short in indigo. The Arabian and Persian Gulfs follow Great Britain in the import of sugar, and stand next below America in taking silk piece goods, and do not take salt-petre; but the Arabian and Persian Gulfs, and the Mauritius, precede all other countries in the import of grain. For the total value of the imports from Bengal the countries stand in the following order:—United Kingdom, China, Eastern Islands, France, America; in some years, though rarely, France and America precede the Eastern Islands."

Next in order to China, Penang and the Eastern Islands are the largest consumers of opium. The cotton piece goods of Madras find a market in the United Kingdom, Ceylon, the Straits of Malacca, and the Gulf of Persia. America takes little from Madras, and France scarcely anything but indigo. In aggregate value the United Kingdom purchases most of the products of Bombay, as cotton, coffee, ivory, pepper, raw silk, and shawls, but in separate articles the course of trade is various. Thus, shawls, and piece goods, and sugar chiefly command a sale in the Persian and Arabian Gulfs; opium entirely in China and the Eastern Islands. Such was the nature of the external commerce of India from 1834 to 1842; since that period there has been a considerable increase in the export of oil-seeds, cocoa-nut oil, lacdye, and shellac. "English manufacturers and merchants," writes Colonel Sykes, "are probably unaware that their interests are mixed up with this opium trade between India and China. Goods and treasure are sent to India to buy indigo, sugar, opium, cotton, &c. The opium and cotton are sent to China, where tea and silks are purchased, sent to England, sold, and with the money manufactures and bullion are sent out to India, or money is paid into the Company's treasury for bills on India, and sent to China for tea and silk, which are sold in England, and more manufactures or bullion are sold in England; and the round of trade through China is thus continued in endless succession, opium being one of the chief articles of the trade."

The United Kingdom sends to India cotton fabrics, cotton twist and thread, woollens, metals, hardware, glass, spirits, wine, malt liquors, and stationery. To these have been added in later years railway machinery and materials. It may also be observed that during the late war our merchants sought in India for the supply of some commodities which are usually obtained from Russia, and with success, particularly in fibrous substances, which have been tested and proved to be far stronger than Russian hemp. As railways are extended the general trade must expand, by the connection of the interior with the seaboard reducing the cost of carriage, and a profit will be derived from goods which are now profitless.

MESSRS CHRISTIE AND MANSON'S SALES.

We now proceed with a summary of the transfers of art treasures by the third of the Christies, who commenced his career in 1831, on the death of his father. This was a most inauspicious period for the vendors of the articles of virtue. The Reform agitation had withdrawn the public attention from the culture of the beautiful to the momentous changes then taking place in the depositories of Representative Government. The upper classes somewhat unphilosophically imagined that this cool-blooded Saxon nation was about to fall into all the excesses of the first French Revolution, and that their order was doomed. Vain apprehension! We showed ourselves as incapable of French Augusts and Septembers as the French have shown themselves incapable of realising British liberty or Saxon Representative and Municipal Government. But the agitation operated for years unfavourably on art sales; and these apprehensions, however chimerical, caused many fine collections to be sold greatly below the value of previous and subsequent years.

In illustration of this we may mention Lord Vernon's sale in 1831, at which Raphael's "Virgin and Child," from the collection of Philip Egalité, Duke of Orleans, went for only £304, considerably less than a third of what it lately sold for. In the following year, 1832, when it was seen that we were not going to have a 1793, the wealthier classes began slowly to open their purses, and to laugh at the phantom of revolutionary confiscations. In this year was sold the collection of the Earl of Mulgrave, the early patron of Wilkie, comprising fourteen sketches of Wilkie's principal works. The prices showed the high estimation in which the great native Realist was held by his admiring fellow-countrymen. The celebrated "Rent-day" fetched close on £800, but this is certainly very far from what the same picture would fetch were it now brought to the hammer.

In 1833 there was a still further improvement in prices, and in this year were sold the pictures of Mr. Jeremiah Harman, consisting of most beautiful highly-finished Dutch pictures. There was also a subsequent sale, in 1844, of pictures collected by the same gentleman, comprising Gerard Dow's own portrait of himself, holding a pipe in his hand, painted on panel, which had formerly been in the Dijon collection at Paris, and which is now in the National Gallery. Prince Talleyrand's pictures were sold in the same year, consisting of most elaborate Dutch pictures, which showed that he had taken no advantage of his numerous opportunities to mingle works of high spiritual beauty with the pleasing truth and reality of the Dutch translations of nature; but, as the French say, "rien ne réussit comme le succès"—the pictures of the successful man of the world fetched good prices.

In the following year (1834) were sold the remains of Stothard. This sale was assiduously attended by the late Mr. Rogers, who was a liberal buyer. The pictures of their contemporary, Romney, were also brought to the hammer in the same year; but they were not appreciated—in fact, they sold ill. At Sir Francis Chantrey's sale, in 1842, there were good books and fine old wine, but little or no sculpture. The most successful of all these posthumous artists' sales was Sir David Wilkie's, in 1842, when even the smallest scraps and sketches fetched good prices. The "Village School" was bought by a publisher for 700 guineas; and his Oriental Sketcher—which were most unoriental in character, his Turks and Arabs being all Franks, with turbans on their heads—fetched extraordinary prices. At Etty's sale, in 1850, there was more of quantity than of quality; showing that an artist, for the sake of his own fame, would do well to destroy his superfluities before his death.

But to return from the artists to the amateurs. We find in this period many important sales: those of Lord Northwick, in 1838, at which Lord Elmere bought his fine "Giorgione;" Sir Simon Clarke's, in 1840, at which were sold Murillo's "Good Shepherd," for 2000 guineas; and the "St. John," to the Trustees of the National Gallery, for £1200. In this year we also find the sale of the incomparable "Francias," belonging to the Duke of Lucoa, to Mr. Farrer, previously to their becoming the gems of the National Gallery. Talking of gems without metaphor, we come naturally to the great sale of Messrs. Rundell and Bridges, who had gained so high a reputation, and amassed such enormous wealth, by the liberality with which they employed artists of the highest standing to design for them. Another important plate sale was that of the Duke of Sussex, in 1843: the services of this high-minded Prince, who had been so frequently embarrassed through his own munificence, producing no less a sum than £24,000. Like the unfortunate Louis XVI. he was a great fancier of clocks and watches, and so renowned for his stock of cigars that they altogether fetched £3000, some selling at 2s. a piece. Punch said that "every one's mouth was full of the puff of the Duke of Sussex." Another Prince, who has since encircled his brows with an Imperial crown, was at

this time compelled by dire necessity to make a partial sale of his effects, Prince Louis Napoleon. The bust of his uncle the Emperor, by Canova, was knocked down to Mr. Farrer, for 300 guineas; and not one of the least interesting portions of the objects of this sale was the manuscript music of the Queen Hortense, the authoress of the celebrated "Partant pour la Syrie," as well as the plate of this accomplished Princess, which we imagine did not go without a filial pang.

The next fine collection sold by Messrs. Christie was that of Mr. Penrice, in 1844. The principal picture was Rubens' "Cholce of Paris," which had formerly been in the Orleans collection, and was knocked down to the Trustees of the National Gallery for £4000. Guido's "Lot and his Daughters" was sold for £1700 to the same parties. And the companion picture of "Susannah and the Elders," which had hung along with it on the walls of the Lancellotti Palace at Rome, was knocked down to Mr. Farrer, who resold it to the Trustees of the National Gallery in the following year.

But the greatest collection known to have been brought to the hammer was that of Stowe, in 1848; the sum total realised being £60,000. When we say the largest, we mean of private collections; for that of Queen Charlotte was larger. From the period of the Fonthill sale, in 1822, until that of Stowe, no one had excited so much interest and attention even with classes who regard unheeded the dispersion of good ordinary collections. The rank and vast possessions of the vender—or, to speak more correctly, of the vendee, or "sold up"—and the stores of articles of virtu which had descended by inheritance, so as to form a conflux of heirlooms, bearing an historical relation to many of the most eminent personages of modern times, elicited universal public interest, which was the theme of the journalist for weeks, and into which we would enter more fully were it not that this event is so fresh in the recollection of all. The plate produced £20,000; and Rembrandt's fine picture of the "Unjust Steward" was knocked down for £2800.

A still more awful reverse of fortune was that of Louis Philippe, who once more found an asylum on the banks of the Thames, and who brought to the hammer in 1853 his Spanish pictures, collected for him in the Peninsula by Baron Taylor, comprising 350 specimens of the Spanish school. The fine "Nativity" by Velasquez, which had been bought by Baron Taylor from the Count d'Aguiar, in whose family it had remained from the time of its being painted, and one of the most striking specimens of the naturalistic manner of Velasquez, more particularly in the male figures, was knocked down for £2050; and that fine Zurbaran, "The Franciscan Monk," plunged into the depths of devotional abstraction—a picture that combines in an extraordinary degree both spiritual power and naturalistic reality—went cheap at £350. Indeed, one of the signs of the times was a considerable curiosity about the Spanish school of painting, which had been generated in this country by the admirable work of that accomplished amateur, Mr. Stirling, of Keir. The Spanish gallery, which had been presented to Louis Philippe, also contains some fine works of the Spanish school, the "Infanta" of Velasquez being knocked down to the Marquis of Hertford for £1600.

But our space is limited, and it only remains for us to allude to the Bernal collection of last year, consisting principally of porcelain; and that of Mr. Rogers of this year, which produced above £60,000 to the representatives of the deceased poet. As regards the sales, which we have no room to describe in detail, we content ourselves with a selection, specifying name and year, commencing where we left off, in the similar list of the previous article:—

1807. La Fontaine's Dutch pictures	1836. The effects of Lord Chatham
" Lord Yarmouth's pictures	" Works of Sir William Beechey
1808. Lord Whitworth's pictures	" Pictures of Lord Stowell
1810. Lord Coventry's pictures	1837. Sir George Warrender's pictures
" Lord Ranelagh's pictures	1838. Princess Razoumoffsky's pictures
1811. The Duke of Queensberry's effects	" Lord Northwick's pictures
" The Duke of Somerset's effects	1839. Prince Poniatowski's pictures and gems
1813. The Earl of Shaftesbury's books	1840. Sir Herbert Taylor's books
1816. The Duke of Norfolk's effects	" The library of Bishop Butler of Lichfield
" Lord Courtenay's pictures	1841. Lord Mark Ker's cabinet of coins
1819. Queen Charlotte's collection	" Earl of Upper Ossory's pictures
" Sir Robert Strange's pictures	" Duchess of Cannizaro's effects
1820. Sir Richard Onslow's pictures	" Effects of Princess Augusta
1822. Joseph Bonaparte's effects	1843. Sir Bethel Codrington's pictures
" Marquis of Bute's pictures	1844. Effects of the Earl of Shannon
1823. Earl of Essex's effects	1845. Lord Powerscourt's pictures
1824. Sir William Temple's pictures	" Earl Granville's pictures, and Sir Augustus Calcott's drawings
" Sir Mark Sykes's pictures	1846. The works of Hilton, R.A.
1826. Lord Radstock's pictures	" Miss Linwood's works
" The Marchioness of Bath's engravings	1847. Works of Collins, R.A.
" The Earl of Carlisle's Greek vases	1848. Library of Lord Dudley Stuart, and of Lord Canterbury
1827. Long Wellesley's diamonds	" Earl of Bessborough's pictures
" Duke of York's effects	" Casimir Perier's pictures
1828. Lord Rivers' effects	" Sir Thomas Baring's pictures
" Lady de Clifford's library	1849. Mr. W. Hope's pictures
" Earl of Caryfort's pictures	" Count Orsini's pictures
" Earl of Guilford's plate	" Libraries of Princess Sophia and Earl of Abernethy
" George Canning's library	1850. The Earl of Ashburnham's pictures
1829. Earl of Liverpool's pictures	" Library of Sir Gore Ouseley
1830. General Stewart's museum	1851. Lord Middleton's pictures
" Mr. Hughes Ball's plate	" Earl of Pembroke's collection
1833. Lord de Clifford's pictures	1852. Earl of Liverpool's pictures
" Lady de Grey's pictures	1853. Sir Thomas Walter's collection
" The works of Jackson, R.A.	1854. The Duke of Beaufort's effects
1834. Lady Hampden's pictures	1855. The late Duke of Argyll's pictures
1835. Lord Chas. Townshend's Dutch pictures	1856. The Sibthorp collection.
" Effects of Prince Leopold, at Marlborough House	
" Pictures of the Marchioness of Lansdowne	
" Pictures of Mr. Nash, architect	

On the subject of those fluctuations of taste, of which such sales are a sure barometer, we may remark:—

First, the increasing estimation in which the early Italian painters are held—those at least which, however deficient in mechanical means, evince a potent religious sentiment, and arrive at a high degree of spiritual beauty. A generation ago such pictures were scarcely looked at by even those who call themselves connoisseurs. The vigorous colour of the Netherland painters, and the academic elegance and correctness of the Holognese eclectics, were preferred to the earlier Italian painters. A great change has taken place since then, and in no market of Europe would the prime works of a Perugino, a Fra Angelico, and a Francia excite a warmer competition than in the sale-rooms of London.

Secondly, we have to note the extraordinary rise in the value of Sevres and other porcelains. The Bernal collection, which cost £18,000, sold for £62,000. At Lord Gwydr's sale, in 1829, George the Fourth paid £400 for a service of Sevres, which is not more than one-tenth of what the same service would now realise. It is now not uncommon for the same sum to be paid for a single vase. There is also an extraordinary rise of the value of the French luxury pictures of the last century—Watteau, Lancret, and Greuze.

As for the tribe of picture-forgers, who are the bane of second and third class auction-rooms, a curious revolution has taken place in their manoeuvres. Instead of seeking out worm-eaten pieces of panel in order to copy a Teniers or a Wouvermans, they now direct all their industry to copying pictures of modern English artists. So far has this been carried, that we know of one English collection said to be worth £80,000 which is, in reality, not worth a tenth of that sum. Nor is the industry of these fabricators confined to a literal copy, which may be detected and confronted with the original; it extends to pictures made up and compounded of details of different pictures, with a general and clever mimicry of manner. On another occasion we may enter more fully into this new branch of British manufacture.

THE RUSSIANS AT LARGE ONCE MORE.—Our city has recently, and since the reopening of the navigation between the German ports and those of the Baltic and Gulf of Finland, been somewhat enlivened by the presence of a number of Russian visitors, who, on account of the number of "golden imperials" they usually bring with them, and the liberal way in which they spend them, are much cherished by the hotel and shopkeepers of the place, who seldom fail to reap rich harvests at such seasons. Many more are successively expected; as, from what some of them report, above 50,000 persons of all grades have applied for permission and passports to travel abroad. Most of them, after refreshing themselves with the good things that are placed before them here, and especially having fitted themselves out from head to foot with all that is fashionable in point of dress, pass on to Paris and Southern Germany, to spend the remainder of the time allowed them on leave of absence from their homes and families. It is truly interesting to witness the great anxiety and activity displayed by the various tradesmen, aided by the commissionaires of the hotels, in looking after these travelling Russians, and the manner in which they are treated. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, they all appear, however, to feel extremely grateful to their Emperor for allowing them to enjoy the fresh air of the places in which they sojourn for the time being, and are especially glad that the war is at an end.—Letter from Hamburg, May 28.

* "The External Commerce of British India during Two Periods of Years: namely, the Eight Years (ended 30th April) 1834-35 to 1841-42; and the Five Years 1849-50 to 1853-54. By Colonel Sykes, F.R.S., Chairman of the East India Company."



THE PEACE COMMEMORATION.—THE FIREWORKS ON PRIMROSE HILL: THE GRAND FINALE, AND SHOWER OF 10,000 ROCKETS.—(SEE PAGE 634.)

MASKS AND FACES.

A WRITER in a French periodical has just had the audacity to publish a set of articles so defamatory of the Parisian ladies that we doubt not, if they can find him out, he will suffer the fate of Orpheus. The said articles are called "Studies on the Art of Painting the Face," and commence with the sweeping and uncompromising assertion—that at the present time all the women in Paris, more or less, regularly and systematically, touch up, alter, revise, correct, or altogether re-form the faces which they have received at the hands of Nature. The process by which this is accomplished, he asserts, with an air of candour and probability difficult to resist, is called to *repiquer*. After which he proceeds to give a most elaborate and philosophical disquisition into the causes which have led to the universality of the practice, the sects or schools into which the face-painters divide themselves, and the modes, processes, substances, and instruments employed by them.

What are we to say of this? We are unprepared to follow the course our instinctive gallantry would prompt—rebut the accusation as a malicious libel, and bury the slanderer in the ruins of the careful structure of evidence he has built up. Without full and minute instructions from the accused party, it would be impossible to answer successfully a charge so artfully concocted. In the mean time, until the Parisian ladies have chosen and armed a champion, *ex officio*, it is our duty to give the substance of the accusation for the benefit of our own ladies, lest there should be some truth in it, and among other importations of Parisian modes so detestable a practice should find its way across the Channel.

After deliberately, as has been said, laying down the charge, our censor tells us, by way of palliation for the offenders, that he believes they have been led away by a popular poet, novelist, and critic, who has been much praised for the "colouring" of his style, M. Theophile Gautier. The dazzling word-painting to which he has had recourse in depicting the charms of female beauty; the abuse he has made of swan's down, coral, ebony, &c.; has mainly contributed to erect a false standard of beauty in the minds of his fair readers, and rendered them dissatisfied with the comparatively meagre and colourless tone of their natural attractions. The errors of certain modern schools of painting and music—the one abounding in violent contrasts of prismatic colour, the other in noisy accumulations of instrumental effects—are also charged with assisting to bring about an unnatural hankering for vigour of tone and rich orchestral combination in the public taste; and thus the ladies, in their eagerness not to lag behind the advances of art, have been led to wind themselves up, as it were, to the general concert pitch by recourse to the various artifices which our author proceeds to detail. Once the movement had begun, all were necessarily carried along in the current; for, however unwilling some might be to add a touch or a tint to their natural favour, and however repulsive the self-dabbling of the innovators might seem in their eyes, they could not resist the impression that the delicacy and freshness of their own native graces must fade into insignificance beside the coarsely-heightened tints of the leaders of the new school. Thus, then, what with the old women who wish to prolong the bloom of youth, and present the preposterous spectacle of stereotyped juvenility, the dashing originators of the new school, dissatisfied with Nature's first manner, which they consider slow and old-fashioned, resolved to bring the old style of face to the level of modern theories, and those who, though they do not altogether reject the original model, find occasion for improvement in some parts and give an effective touch here and there, we are led to the conclusion with which our author commenced, that all the Parisian ladies—that is, all who have any pretensions to making an elegant figure—go through, every evening at least, a tattooing process on their skins, varying in extent and manner according to the peculiar taste or intentions of the individual.

Entering seriously now into his subject, he tells us that the *repiqueuses*, or face-menders, are divided into two large classes or schools—the fanciful and the sensible, rationalists and idealists. The idealist is she who considers it slow and humdrum to have a face like her mother's, or her grand-mother's, or any other of her predecessors; Nature's productions are commonplace and mawkish, pappy and flinikin; her style is broad and telling—she aims at colour and effect.

The rationalist has a less lofty flight of imagination. She strives after the true and natural. In youth her style is correct and simple; she copies from acknowledged models, or from her own portrait, if it be tolerably like and flattering. In advanced years she is content to patch up and retouch where any part has faded—to fill up cracks, and restore the glazing where it has disappeared. Hers is simply a work of restoration. To give an example—the classical face-painter is generally fond of rubbing in softly a light blue tinge under the eyes; the effect is to give an air of languor, as though ardent and impassioned thoughts had left their unmistakable traces on the visage of the too sensitive creature.

The idealist, on the other hand, boldly spreads beneath her eyes a broad flat tint, hard and dark, charcoally, and altogether improbable. The effect is to give that sort of expression which can only be described as *peculiar*. Again, the follower of the rational school gives herself arched, slender, brilliant eyebrows, care being taken to place them at a good height from the lids—eyebrows à l'Impératrice they are called under the present dynasty.

The idealist makes hers of a dull colour—thick, and turned up with a peremptory twist like the moustache of a Zouave. The object thus secured is a wild, startling, ruffianly grace, that demands your admiration as a footpad does your purse. To the idealist is due the black line which is sometimes seen immediately under the eyelash, on the very edge of the lid, which is to give additional lustre to the glance; and likewise the prolongation of the said black line beyond the corner of the eye, supposed to increase the apparent size of the orbit.

To sum up—while the rationalist strives at a servile imitation of nature, constituting a sort of Dutch school characterised by simplicity and native grace, the idealist, less "of the earth earthy," rushes into the unexpected and startling; the original local tint, for which she hath small regard, may sometimes be taken by her as a sort of starting-point; but it is the first step in a scale of colouring which mounts up into the maddest play of tints, and exceeds the wildest dreams even of the modern romantic ballad-writer.

The thoroughgoing idealist does not, as may be imagined, rise to the fulness of her poetic frenzy at one flight. Her first essays are more timid and tentative, but gradually, as one bold effect is ventured upon, then another—like the tiger that has lapped blood—she is lashed to a furious thirst, and finally becomes desperate, swaying fearfully on the thin boundary that divides insanity from genius.

The origin of the moderate or rationalist school is beyond the memory of man. From all time women have used cosmetics; the angel Azazel first taught them to paint their faces. But the rise of the school of idealists is of more recent date; it is, in fact, entirely modern, although many of its practices have been separately in use among various nations from an early period; for instance, among the American Indians, who paint their cheeks and forehead blue; the Greenlanders, who streak their faces with white and yellow; the women of the Decan, who cut out flowers upon their own skins, and paint them various tints, &c., &c. From each of these the idealist borrows a little, a hint here, a notion there, but the complete system, as a whole, is entirely modern, and of the present day. Another characteristic difference between the two sects, and one which is extremely significant as respects the basis on which each proceeds, is this: the rationalist, when she has occasion to purchase the materials with which she manufactures her deceptive charms, drives stealthily in a hack carriage under cover of dusk to the shop of the fashionable dealer in the raw material of beauty, velled and muffled up in sombre garments, as though she were

stealing to some guilty rendezvous. Not so the follower of the fantastic and ideal school—boldly and openly her equipage in the full glare of day draws up before the door as though she were about to buy dresses at a linen-draper's. In point of fact, the one practises the art as a piece of hypocrisy and a fraud, and the other as a part and parcel of her personal adornments—the necessary complement of her toilet. This latter was exactly the view in which rouge came to be held in the olden time—in the age of hoops, high-heeled shoes, and patches. It formed part of the complete toilet of a lady of fashion—it was one of the items of full dress—to be without it was to be *en negligé*. Unmarried girls were forbidden its use—to wear rouge and diamonds was among the privileges acquired by marriage.

Pass we now to the practical part of our author's treatise, the arcana of recipes and processes, the chemistry of artificial charms. The fundamental colours, red, black, and white, are of ancient usage; they were what is called pearl-white, rouge or carmine, and talc, and lamp or smoke black. But these substances have been found to present many objectionable peculiarities—the pearl-white cracks and flakes, giving the face a surface like veined marble; the rouge, whatever price may be given for it—and as much as five pounds for a little pot is sometimes paid—is not a fast colour, runs, and forms a coating of visible thickness; moreover, it has the disadvantage of colouring not only the cheek but the down upon it, so that by a glancing light a scrutinising eye detects the blushing artifice; as for lampblack, it lacks consistency, and smudges too easily. In place of carmine, what was called *vinagre de rouge* was invented—a liquid which dyes the epidermis, so that, when it has been laid on, a wet rag lightly passed over the down washes all colour away from it without affecting that on the cheek. This, however, is now classed among the coarser and more ancient processes; and, though together with them it is still used by a large number, the more refined compilers of complexions adopt the following methods. Those who are merely too pale, and have no other fault to find themselves than that they have a dull, lustreless look—those lucky enough, in short, to require only a touch of rouge, have an easy and short task of it. They have recourse neither to the rouge paste nor the rouge vinegar, but to the most enchanting tint of delicate rose—so conceivable a tint rarely equalled by Nature's purest and freshest hues, and which is derived from a composition called *rose de Chine*. It is a curious kind of preparation, laid upon paper, and forming a kind of pocket-book. The surface of the paper has a shiny emerald-green and gold tinge. You moisten the tip of your finger, rub it, and a rose-red colour comes off upon the finger, the which is immediately applied to the cheek, which it lights up with a pretty delicate rosy hue, strongly recommendable to the less robust. This process is far preferable to laying slices of raw veal on either cheek, as is known to be nightly practised by interesting females fluctuating about maturity.

As regards white, its use is not so simple, as it necessitates a preparatory process, analogous to that which painters called priming. The best white being in powder, the skin has to be prepared for its reception by a previous application of an unctuous and retentive character; this is generally cold cream, with which the visage is lightly anointed. The white is then laid on with the end of the finger, as with a stump. The whole soon dries, and forms a compact surface, on which the rouge may then be applied. Great care is requisite to lay on the proper amount and thickness of white at once; any patching or retouching would produce a blotchy and unequal appearance; the only alternative is to begin again. Let it be observed that there are three orders of white, viz., pink white for the fair; yellow white for the dark, called Rachel's white, its invention being attributed to the great tragedian; and, lastly, white white, or minny's white, for those who are weak-minded enough to baffle their faces in emulation of the Clown in a pantomime. Formerly what was called an *œil de poudre* (a dash of powder) was an indispensable process as the finishing touch to the toilet. It consisted in one slight sprinkling from the powder-puff on the hair, and a similar light shower of pearl-white on the shoulders. Under this light and discreet veil disappeared any little accidental imperfections or blurs marring the uniform snowiness of the skin; it was a mask, too, concealing the alterations that might supervene from heat, cold, or unfashionable emotion. Now-a-days this imperceptible hoar frost is considered too evanescent and unstable; a more vigorous and permanent effect is desired, and arms, shoulders, neck, and bust are washed over with a preparation called liquid white. This process calls to mind that by which the spotless white of pantaloons and cross-belt is obtained by soldiers—a species of pipe-claying it is, undoubtedly. There is a dark side, moreover, to this liquid-white which by no means can we omit to mention: its basis is metallic silver, or bismuth; these act as poisons, which corrode, discolour, and wrinkle up the skin; and moreover, affect, by absorption, the constitution itself. Nor is this all: those whose skins are plastered with it must beware of all sulphurous emanations; a ride on a Thames steamer—a visit to Harrogate or Barmeg—would simply turn them black—convert them into Hotentot Venuses.

We have now to mention the treatment of lips and eyebrows. For the lips and the nails rouge vinegar is the only thing that can be used, though no doubt injurious, especially to the former. As to the eyebrows, the subject is one on which much prose might be written as a counterbalance to the sonnets indited by lovers to those of their mistresses. Charcoal and burned cork, though used by not a few, should decidedly be left to the domain of theatrical "making up." The recipe in vogue among the most knowing is derived from an antiquarian discovery. In certain ancient sarcophagi have been found little boxes containing a black matter evidently destined for this purpose, together with the little wooden instrument which was used in applying it. The pigment is composed of two parts of lead and one of plumbago unpurified of the small quantity of iron found in it when native. The little instrument, which is either of wood or ivory, is about an inch long, and cut to a point like a pencil. The point is dipped into the preparation, which is laid on, not at one stroke, but in an infinity of little lines laid close to each other like veritable hairs. The general shape of the whole eyebrow varies according to the fashion of the month. The effect is perfect, and there is only one objection to the process—the very long time it takes up. When we have adverted to the pencilling of veins, to give an air of transparency to the marble surface of the skin, which is simply done with a camel-hair brush and a little blue paint, as we trace the branchings of rivers on a map, and, secondly, to the fabrication of artificial moles or beauty spots, a substitute for the patches of the older time produced on the same principle as the eyebrow above, we shall have completed our review of the art and mystery of face-painting as shown forth by the daring hand of the French writer, for daring he must be, whether he be a libeller or a true man.

And now, will it not be said that, in common with some moralists against whom it has been urged that, while painting vices to make it hideous or ridiculous, they have initiated the ignorant and corrupted the innocent—will it not be said that we, too, in affecting to give a warning, are furnishing hints? Certainly it would not be an easy task to refute such a charge. There is a natural perverseness in the human heart from which the fair are by no means exempt; and whence it results that to lay down a law is to suggest a transgression. All have heard the famous instance of this inverse effect produced by an admonition in the days of patches and Court preachers in France, when Massignon, in a burst of indignation against the "low dresses" of that day, ironically suggested that the Court beauties should still further draw attention to their unveiled charms, and attract the eye by a patch. On the morrow, at the Regent's ball, the hint was adopted; all the ladies appeared with the suggested improvement, and, to give every one their due, the patch in its new place was called a *Massignonne*. But, if we are forced to admit that we may have retailed poison, we have done so in strict

accordance with Lord Campbell's Act—our arsenic is accompanied with a detective admixture. For, as we trust the present article will find as many male readers as female, full as many pairs of watchful and wary eyes will be enlisted in the preventive service, as weak minds may have been seduced to smuggle contraband charms. But, as an additional safeguard, we will conclude by summing up in our author's own words or thereabouts the pains and penalties to which those are exposed who have been tempted to launch into the absurd artifices of which a sketch has been given.

Once the beauty is invested in her borrowed charms, farewell to all the graces of varied expression, ever changing with the movements of the soul—graces more precious than beauty itself. Beneath its crust of paint the face is fixed immovable, as though the head of Gorgon had stared upon it. If it have a smile, it must remain for ever a rigid grin, like that on the plaster cast of a hanged criminal—at the utmost a convulsive twitch may be permitted to the extent of the twentieth part of an inch. Joy, anger, the passions generally—in all their shades, in all their gradations—are banished for ever from their natural appanage. They may rumble and agitate internally—not a trace can they be allowed to exhibit on the "dial of the soul." A moment's forgetfulness has been known to cause a woful wreck—instant dilapidation, as from an earthquake. Huge fissures athwart the features, or myriad crackings and exfoliations, shedding from time to time their scales. In polking or waltzing, shoulders, forehead, must be carefully withheld from all contact with the partner's coat. When resting the hand on his shoulder the arm must be painfully kept aloof from the partner's sleeve. A severe gymnastic exercise polking or waltzing under such restrictions!

Equally forbidden is any prolonged indulgence in the pleasures of the ball: the heat induced is fatal when it has reached a certain point. Neglect of this precaution has caused frightful disasters. After the thirteenth polka faces have been seen to present a variegated appearance—pink and red on one side, yellow and brown on the other.

Tears labour under the same interdiction, the penalty being streaks down the face as down a glazed gingham after the first shower; likewise the mechanical allaying of any sudden irritation of the skin called scratching, this interdiction implies sufferings unfelt by Tantalus.

We might swell the list at pleasure: sufficient, we trust, has been said, however, to deter the most intrepid from joining either sect of *repiqueuses*, or in any the remotest degree sacrificing to Venus in plaster of Paris.

THE SOLDIERS' WELCOME HOME.

Back they come, like waves retreating,	With their parting bugles' play All our music died away!
Where the storm no more is beating,	What doth sorrow here to day?
Hungry hope no longer cheating,	Back they come!
Since the brand of War is broken,	Glorious wreaths our hands shall fling them,
Since of Peace we hold the token,	Songs of love our lips shall sing them,
Let at last the words be spoken—	Proudly to our hearths we'll bring them—
Welcome home!	Welcome home!
Trophies ask they not, nor booty;	Who shall hear the serpent hissing?
Marching, with a spirit-beauty,	Who shall question of the missing?
In the heavenly light of duty,	When unto their children's kissing
Back they come!	Back they come!
Soldiers, to your native sod,	Of the lost they'll whisper low:—
Patriots, where your fathers trod,	"Thus spake (Glory's self but now,
Heroes, to each household god,	As she kissed them on the brow,
Welcome home!	'Welcome home!'
Women are we, meek and lowly,	These shall tell us, mid our yearning,
Striving upward firmly, slowly;	How they fell, for honour burning,
To our bosoms true and holy	Till upon our souls returning
Back they come!	Back they come!
Let no lagging steps defeat them,	See we not the weapons gleaming,
Rise we and go forth to meet them,	Hear we not the war-horse screaming,
Whispering, as we fondly greet them—	Smiling, sobbing, midst our dream- ing—
Welcome home!	Welcome home!
Noon we clouded with our weeping,	Suns, they made our pathway bright,
Midnight held our eyes from sleeping;	Shadows, passed they from our sight;
Once more to our spirits' keeping,	Robed once more in God's own light,
Back they come!	Back they come!
Barren Spring was vain to cheer us,	Death from spirit never rent us;
Now it blossoms as they near us;	In the trust which Heaven sent us,
Let us cry until they hear us—	We will shout while life is lent us—
Welcome home!	Welcome home!

E. L. HERVEY.

SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME.

We talk of home who never knew its loss;
But these are like the blind restored to sight,
Who feel the priceless blessing of the light
To the very core of the thanksgiving heart,
And love the day still dearer for the night
Through which they passed to it.

Blessing of Home!

Into how many a drear and ghastly scene,
Where strife and carnage played their hideous part,
And War was actual—stripped of all its gloss;—
The thought of Thee, white-winged and pure, has come
And nestled in men's hearts, and made them clean
From the fierce passions rampant in the fight?
Home! Peace! My brethren, let our thanks be given
To God, for His best gifts this side of heaven.

M. J. J.

A GOLDEN FLUTE.—An article of considerable interest, as well in an artistic point of view as for its rarity and intrinsic value, has just been produced by Messrs. Rudall, Rose, and Carte, the musical instrument-makers and publishers in New Bond-street and at Charing-cross. It consists of a flute made entirely of the purest gold, with just so much alloy as was absolutely indispensable in the adaptation of the metal to such a purpose, and has been manufactured by them expressly for Mr. Gilbert Wright, solicitor and amateur flute-player, resident in Sydney, who sent over to this country the requisite quantity of Australian gold with that view. The instrument in its finished state contains 144 ounces of gold, beside the slight quantity of alloy, which makes the metal of the quality of 18½ carats, and its value is from 130 to 150 guineas. In its construction all the improvements of M. Boehm have been introduced which gained for him the council medal at the Exhibition of 1851, as well as the additional improvements as regards facility of fingering made by Mr. Carte, and for which his firm obtained the prize medal on the same occasion.

SPAIN AND MEXICO.—The Spanish Cabinet has lately held several Councils to decide on the course to be pursued with respect to Mexico. The result of their decisions is that Spain will declare war against that Republic, should the latter refuse to execute the stipulations of the treaty of 1853 in favour of the Spanish subjects whose claims had been solemnly recognised by the Mexican Government and confirmed by a legislative vote. Accounts from Madrid of the 28th ult. state that at a Cabinet Council, held the day before, it was resolved to send to the Gulf of Mexico, independently of the naval forces detached from Cuba, two ships of the line, one frigate, and one corvette, which are to be placed under the command of a distinguished naval officer. One of those ships is now ready to put to sea, and the Government has ordered that the other should be fitted out with all possible dispatch.

COST OF PAUPERISM.—The eighth annual report of the Poor-law Board, just published, shows that in the year 1855, £6,290,041 was expended on the relief of the poor, being an increase of £607,158, or upwards of half a million, as compared with 1854, and equivalent to an increase of 11.3 per cent, and to an increased rate per head on the population of 7d. The increase is attributed in a great measure to the severity of the winter. The increase extended to every county save Durham, where there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent.

PUBLIC-ART.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE AND PARK.

SOME days ago a desultory conversation took place in the House of Peers (commenced by Lord Ravensworth), upon some of the more salient abominations in our street architecture, and other offences against good taste in matters of art, which make us and our wealthy capital a laughing-stock amongst nations. The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Malmesbury, the Earl of Aberdeen, and Lord St. Leonards, all took part in this discourse; and each had his little pet grievance—one an ugly stable, or coalshed built up against the new Houses of Parliament; another a stack of odious red chimneys obtruding in the neighbourhood of Somerset House; another denounced the wretched state of disorganisation of our public statues; and Lord Malmesbury complained of the dilapidated condition of the public offices—the Foreign-office having neither kitchens nor sleeping accommodations; his Lordship, apparently, forgetting that in these troublous times a sandwich and a nap on the sofa is all a Foreign Secretary ought to look for. But the principal topics of discourse, and those to which we shall restrict our attention in the present brief notice, were the proposed new approaches to St. James's-park, and the defective condition of the east front of St. James's Palace, as respects the accommodation afforded for her Majesty's State receptions. Upon these subjects we have also before us a pamphlet of "Suggestions," by Mr. Alfred Beaumont, architect, illustrated with plans and photographic views, which we shall refer to in the course of our remarks.

It is a subject of not unnatural wonderment that when building Buckingham Palace, or, at any rate, when making extensive additions to it from time to time, no provision should have been made for her Majesty's Levées and Drawingrooms, and that upon all such occasions the Court should have to adjourn to a dilapidated old palace in the vicinity. This, we think, was certainly a blunder, and one which sooner or later will call for remedy, the accommodation afforded by St. James's Palace being neither in nature nor extent adequate to the purpose, in consequence of the increased and increasing numbers which now flock to pay their respects to her Majesty on these occasions, compared with the average attendance during previous reigns. Mr. Beaumont proposes to build a new east wing to St. James's Palace, consisting of an extensive suite of apartments, and, as these would only be required for State ceremonial purposes a few times in the year, he proposes also that these rooms should be used as a picture gallery, for the reception of the Vernon or other public collections.

With regard to the new approaches to St. James's-park, Mr. Beaumont has a plan for widening the gateway in the old clock tower at the bottom of St. James's-street, and carrying a road right through into the park. He also proposes to enlarge the gateway at the Horse Guards; and, finally, to make a new carriage entrance from Charing-cross through Spring-gardens, nearly in a line with the Strand and the Mall. These suggestions, we consider, are in themselves well worthy of attention, but we should protest against them if they were attempted to be combined, as there appears some reason to apprehend, with any joint-stock company job for appropriating the site of the National Gallery to the uses of a hotel company; and we mention the subject now in order that the public, whatever occurs in this quarter, may be on their guard against what we must denounce as a most impertinent proposition.

Mr. Beaumont, when forming his new entrance into the park, would build a new wing to Carlton-terrace in the room of the old and incongruous buildings which now occupy this site. We think this would be an improvement. We also agree with those, including the Marquis of Clanricarde, who would oppose any plan for cutting a carriage entrance through the Duke of York's steps, in continuation of Waterloo-place. The column itself is undoubtedly an eyesore; but the terrace line, in our opinion, enhances the pictorial effect of the Abbey and Houses of Parliament in the distance, whilst it acts beneficially in shutting out intermediate buildings of a mean character. We could have wished that the terrace walk, next the park, had been thrown open to pedestrians—it would have formed one of the most charming promenades in the metropolis, perhaps in the world; but this was more than could be expected, when kitchen room and pantry room were wanted for Ministers of State and Lords of high degree.

There are some other suggestions in Mr. Beaumont's pamphlet, as to thoroughfares through the metropolis, and many other points for discussion in connection with the very large question thus incidentally touched upon, the consideration of which we must reserve for a future occasion.

M. SOYER.—A NARROW ESCAPE.—According to a letter from the Crimea, in the *Journal de Constantinople*, M. Soyer, the well-known culinary artiste, lately had a narrow escape for his life. Accompanied by two friends, he was walking near the Bagnat Battery, when at about ten yards from him a loud explosion took place, and the splinters of a shell passed close to him and his friends. It appears that two English sailors who had been taking a stroll in that quarter had found a shell the fuse of which had gone out before it burst. Thinking to smother themselves with it they lighted the end of the fuse with a chemical match, and were making off when it exploded, killing one of them, and severely wounding the other.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENT IN STEAM NAVIGATION.—A trial trip of a steamer of somewhat novel construction took place on the Thames on Saturday week. The *Hydra*, a paddle-steamer of near 200 tons, and drawing only two feet of water, has been constructed to navigate the shallow waters on the west coast of Denmark, between the islands and the mainland. A reference to the large Pictorial Map of the Baltic and North Seas will show the peculiar geographical position of this part of the coast. From the river Eider to the Horns Reef, a distance of eighty miles, the coast is bounded by a number of islands, varying in size, and situated from three to ten miles from the shore. These islands, which are rich in grain and cattle, are inhabited by a hardy and industrious race, who, from their peculiar position, enjoy but little communication with the mainland; the space between being composed of a long, low flat (partly dry at low water), and numerous small and intricate channels, difficult and tedious to navigate. Hence the present communication can only be made in small boats; and, during bad weather, the inhabitants are unable for weeks together to communicate with the coast. The *Hydra* (so named after one of the towns) has been constructed to remedy this disadvantage, and, in conjunction with the Royal Danish Railway, to place the inhabitants of these hitherto isolated places in daily communication, not only with the coast, but with the whole north of Europe. From her very light draught of water she will pass easily over the flats at tide time; and from her size and strength can safely navigate the channels between the islands, conveying passengers, cattle, and goods, with speed and safety. The following are her dimensions:—Length, 120 feet; breadth, 18 feet 6 inches; d-pth, 7 feet; gross tonnage, 190; horse-power, 40; with accommodation for eighty passengers and 100 tons of cargo. On her trial trip, though against the wind, and with a little hold of the water, she averaged twelve miles an hour, with scarcely any perceptible effort or vibration, and fully realised the expectations of her constructors. She has been built for the Husum and Hoyer Steam-packet Company (composed of Danish and English proprietors), to ply between those places and the islands in connection with the Royal Danish Railway, which connects the North Sea with the Baltic. This railway—the result of the skill and enterprise of Sir S. M. Peto and his friends—is now in full operation, and has opened not only a short and expeditious route to the Baltic, but has placed at the disposal of our markets an almost inexhaustible supply of cattle and grain. To the port of Tönning, on the Eider, the North Sea terminus of the railway (a place but little known a few years since), two large steamers belonging to the North of Europe Steam Navigation Company ply from London and Hull; whilst on the opposite side, at Flensburg, on the Baltic, a fleet of smaller steamers belonging to the same company carry on the communication with Copenhagen, Husum, Aarhus, Stettin, Danzig, Königsburg, and St. Petersburg.

The King of Prussia has appointed Prince Windischgratz to the titular colonelcy of the 2nd Dragoons, of which the late Prince William, uncle to his Majesty, was many years chief.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

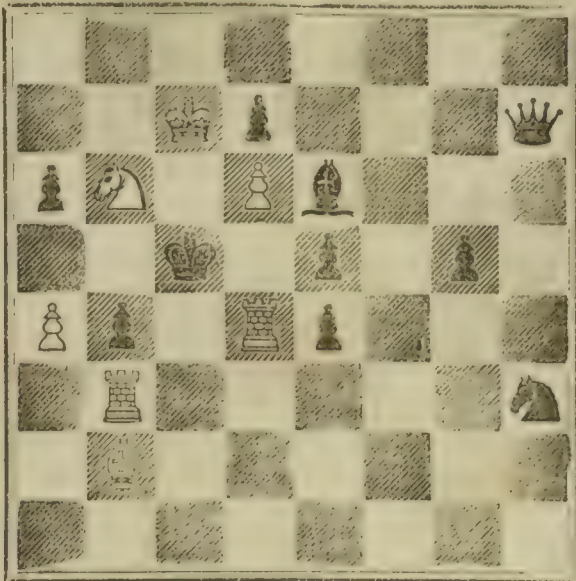
R. C. PHILADELPHIA.—The following is a list of the noblemen and gentlemen composing the managing body of the E. C. George's Chess Club:—
President.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Eglinton.
Vice-Presidents.—The Right Hon. Lord Cremorne and C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M. P.
Committee.—The Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth, Right Hon. Lord Lytton, Sir Charles Marshall, W. J. Evelyn, Esq., M. P.; M. Wyll, Esq., M. P.; J. M. Gaskell, Esq., M. P.; Albany Foulque, Esq.; Rev. W. Wayte, H. Stanton, Esq., J. Sutherland, Esq.

* * Our usual notices to Chess Correspondents are postponed for want of space.

PROBLEM No. 642.

By Mr. H. TURTON.

BLACK.



WHITE.
White, playing first, mates in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 639.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt to K 6th B to Q 5th (best)
2. Kt to Q 8th B to Q 3rd
3. Kt to K 6th B to K 2nd (best)
4. Kt to Q 7th B to Q 4th
5. Kt to Q 5th B anywhere
6. Kt mates

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 639.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q takes K Kt P B takes Q
2. R to K Kt 6th Anything
3. R mates

* * This Problem admits of a second solution, beginning with Q to K 7th, which is easily obtained by placing a White Pawn on White's K R 5th.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 640.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to Q 4th P takes Kt, or *
2. Kt to K sq K or P moves

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to Q 4th P to K R 5th
2. Q takes P and mates next move.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 641.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt takes Q P K to K 6th or (*)
2. Kt to K 4th (dis K to Q 5th ch)

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to Q 6th K to K 4th
2. Q to Q 3d (ch) K takes either Kt
3. Q mates

(*) 1. Kt to Q 3rd (ch) K to Q 5th
2. Kt to K 4th K takes Kt

4. Q to Q 2nd (ch) K to K 5th
5. Kt to K Kt 5th—Mate.

CHESS IN SCOTLAND.

The brilliant game which follows was played some years ago between Mr. Harwitz and one of the leading amateurs of Scotland, Mr. H. giving the odds of the Pawn and two moves.

(Remove White's K B P from the Board.)

BLACK (Amateur). WHITE (Mr. H.)
1. P to K 4th P to Q 3rd
2. P to Q 4th Q Kt to Q 3rd
3. K B to Q 3rd P to K 3rd
4. P to K 5th P to K 3rd
5. P to K R 5th P takes K P
6. P to K R 4th Q takes P
7. P takes K Kt P to K 5th
8. Btks K B P (a) P takes B
9. B to K 3rd Q to K 4th
10. Q takes P K B to K 2nd
11. K Kt to K B 3rd Q takes Kt P
12. B takes R B takes K
13. P to Q 3rd Q B to Q 2nd (b)
14. P to K Kt 7th K Btks P
15. Q to K Kt 6th (ch) K to B sq
16. K to K Kt 5th B takes R (ch)
17. K to B sq Q to K Kt 4th (ch)
18. K to Kt sq Q takes Kt (c)

BLACK (Amateur). WHITE (Mr. H.)
19. B takes Q B takes R
20. B to K R 6th (ch) Kt takes B
21. Q takes K Kt (ch) K to B 2nd
22. Q to K 4th (ch) K B to K B 3rd
23. Q takes Q B P Q B to K sq
24. Kt to Q 2nd R to Q sq
25. Q to K 4th Kt to Q 6th
26. Q to K Kt 4th R to Q 4th
27. Q to K 4th R to Q 3rd
28. Q to K R 7th (ch) Kt to his sq
29. Q to K Kt 8th (ch) K to Q 2nd
30. Q to K Kt 8th (ch) K to B 2nd
31. Kt to K 4th K B to K 4th
32. P to K B 4th K B to Q 3rd
33. Q to Q sq K B takes P
34. Kt to Q 3rd K B to K 6th (ch)
35. K to B sq R to K 4th (ch)
36. K to his sq B takes K Kt P
And Black resigns.

(a) R to K 4th would have been better. The sacrifice of a piece was not warranted by any prospective advantage in the shape of position or attack.
(b) We confess not to see any real or brilliant advantage to White taking the Q's Rook with his Queen, and that, if practically, would surely have been an easier and a much more speedy road to victory than the one adopted.
(c) Daring, but good, play.

NOVEL VARIATION IN THE OPENING CALLED THE SCOTCH GAMBIT.—BY M. LAROCHE.

The encounter conducted with so much energy last season in Paris, between MM. Laroché and De Rivière, was resumed a few days back, and the course of it has been enlivened by the introduction of an ingenious deviation from the ordinary manner of pursuing the attack in the Scotch Gambit. As the variation in question has only this moment reached us we are not in a position to pronounce definitely upon its merits, and must content ourselves for the present by simply giving the leading moves from one of the games played, with a very brief commentary upon their most striking features.

WHITE (Mr. L.) BLACK (M. de R.) WHITE (Mr. L.) BLACK (M. de R.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 3. P to Q 4th Q Kt takes P
2. K Kt to K B 3rd Q Kt to Q B 3rd 4. K Kt takes P Q Kt to K 3rd

The customary move at this point for the first player is 5. K B to 4th, but instead of so playing M. Laroché proposes to move—
5. P to K B 4th

The effect of which, so far as we can judge from the first view, appears to be that while White obtains a fine, bold, open game, that of his adversary is severely cramped for many moves.

In reply to 5. P to K B 4th, the most likely moves for Black are 5. K B to Q B 4th, or 5. Q to K B 3rd; and the result of these we may briefly indicate. Suppose then, in the first place—

K B to Q B 4th

This is, perhaps, the most important feature in M. Laroché's variation, and it is certainly not easy to see in what way this move is to be best met. If 6. P to Q 3rd, then follows 7. P to K B 5th, and the Kt is forced to retire to very bad quarters. If 6. K Kt to K B 3rd, White may play 7. P to K B 5th, and 8. P to K 5th; and Black has an unenviable position. Suppose, however, he play—

6. Q to K B 3rd 9. B to Q 3rd Q takes K Kt P
7. P to K 5th Q to K Kt 3rd 10. K B to K Kt sq
8. Q Kt to Q B 3rd B to Q Kt 5th And White should win.

In the second place—

6. Kt to K B 3rd 8. Q takes Kt B to Q Kt 5th
7. Q Kt to Q B 3rd Kt to K Kt (ch) 9. Q B to Q 2nd
And again White has the advantage.

[It is not pretended that the above are the best moves for either party; those time and rigid analysis can alone discover; but they are sufficient to indicate the bearing and resources of the variation.]

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 988.—By E. B. O., of Hoboken, United States.
White: K at K R 2nd, R at K 5th, B at Q B 4th, Kt at K Kt 5th.
Black: K at K R 4th, Q at Q B 2nd, B at K 6th, Pst K R 3rd and 5th.
White, playing first, can draw the game.

No. 989.—By CAROLUS, of Dundee.
White: K at Q B 6th, Kts at Q 4th and 6th, B at Q 2nd, Ps at Q Kt 3rd and K B 3rd.
Black: K at K 4th, Ps at Q 6th and K B 5th.
White to play, and mate in three moves.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE TURKISH EMBASSY.

On Tuesday evening (last week) her Majesty and the Prince Consort honoured his Excellency Musurus Bey, the Ambassador of the Ottoman Porte, and Madame Musurus, with their presence, at a grand ball given in honour of her Majesty, at the residence of the Embassy in Bryanston-square.

Upon only one occasion has her Majesty conferred such a distinguished mark of honour as a visit to the representative of a foreign Power. This was the Queen's visit to the French Ambassador, at the outset of the late war; and her Majesty's presence at the fête on Tuesday week, to congratulate the Turkish Ambassador on the return of peace, and the security which her own people have afforded to the Turkish dominions, was, indeed, a graceful act of royal favour.

The exterior of the mansion in Bryanston-square was brilliantly illuminated with gas in coloured glasses. In the centre was the national emblem of Turkey—the Crescent and the Star; on the right V.R., and on the left the cipher of the Sultan. Above each column, on the principal cornice, was a vase from which issued a brilliant flame; and from the roof were suspended the flags of Turkey, England, and France. In front of the balconies were draperies on which were embroidered the arms of England, Turkey, and France.

The entrance in Bryanston-square was reserved exclusively for her Majesty and the Court, the general company entering from George-street. Opposite to the former the line band of the Coldstream Guards was stationed, who, on the arrival of her Majesty, struck up "God Save the Queen," which was chorused loyally by the crowd.

The general company began to arrive about nine o'clock. His Highness the Grand Vizier was among the earliest visitors, having been invited by the Ambassador to take part in the honours of the reception. His Highness was attended by Mouréddin Bey, Arifi Bey, Nazim Bey, Djéhal Bey, M. Const. Adosides, M. Blacque, the Prince George Stoury, and Khalil Bey.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, and the Duke of Cambridge, arrived at half-past nine o'clock. Their Royal Highnesses were received in the entrance-hall by M. and Madame Musurus. The Duke of Cambridge was loudly cheered by the crowd, and greeted with "Rule Britannia" from the Coldstream band. His Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Leiningen and the Prince Lowenstein came next.

Her Majesty arrived at ten o'clock and was received by a guard of honour of the Coldstreams, and on alighting from the royal carriage M. and Madame Musurus advanced to welcome the Sovereign.

Her Majesty graciously acknowledged the attention of their Excellencies, and, preceded by the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward with their wands of office, advanced through an avenue of flowering shrubs, until, turning to the left, she entered an apartment set aside as a retiring-room, and furnished in exquisite taste.

Her Majesty and the Prince Consort were accompanied by their illustrious guests the Prince Frederick William of Prussia and the Regent of Baden. A brilliant suite of ladies and gentlemen of the Royal household were in attendance.

On leaving the retiring-room her Majesty took the arm of the Ambassador, Prince Albert leading Madame Musurus, and thus the Royal party, ascending the stairs, entered the ball-room, fitted up in the Eastern fashion. The floor was of exquisite Swiss parquetry, introduced into this country by Messrs. Arrowsmith, of New Bond-street. The walls were hung with a golden fabric, the draperies were of amber. On a dais, left with crimson velvet and fringed with gold, was a throne with the royal crown richly embroidered, and chairs of state in crimson velvet and gold. Here her Majesty took her seat to receive the assembled guests. At each end of the saloon was a vast mirror, extending from the roof to the floor. Behind the Royal throne and dais was a rich bank of flowers, terminating in a golden pillar on each side, supporting a porphyry vase filled with delicately-hued flowers.

Her Majesty was attired in a cerise tarian dress, over white satin, and across her breast she wore the Star and Ribbon of the Order of the Garter. The Prince Consort wore the uniform of the Rifle Brigade.

After a short interval of repose the members of the *corps diplomatique*, headed by the Ambassador of France and the Comtesse de Perigny, and followed by the other foreign Ministers in their order of seniority, were presented to the Queen, and then followed the same ceremonial with the general company.

The orchestra (that of M. Laurent) were placed in an ante-room opening upon the ball-room. The ball was opened by the Queen dancing with M. Musurus, Prince Albert taking the hand of Madame Musurus. In the same set the Princess Mary danced with the Prince Regent of Baden, the Prince Frederick William of Prussia with the French Ambassador, and the French Ambassador with the Duchess of Wellington. A waltz followed, in which Prince Frederick William danced with the Princess Mary; and then another quadrille, in which the Queen danced with the Prince Regent of Baden, the Prince Consort with the Princess Mary, the Duke of Cambridge with the French Ambassador, and Prince Frederick William with Madame Musurus.

After this quadrille there was a waltz before the Queen; and then her Majesty was conducted by M. Musurus from the ball-room through a brilliant avenue, formed by the guests, to the suite of drawing-rooms. Presently returning to the ball-room, the dancing was resumed.

At midnight M. Musurus conducted her Majesty to the raised dais in the inner pavilion, where an elegant repast was served. The effect was that of two pavilions opening into each other—the one of rose colour and white, the other of blue and white, draped and festooned with golden cords. The pillars of these pavilions were formed entirely of flowers clustering upon trelliswork, and reflected in innumerable arcades of mirrors, of which the walls were entirely formed. In the centre and on each side were murmuring fountains throwing up jets of water. Upwards of 300 wax-lights, in chandeliers, festooned with garlands of flowers, shed marvellous brilliancy upon the tables, on which shone plate and glass, and a service of exquisite porcelain, made expressly for the occasion, each plate of which contained a view in some part of the Sultan's dominions. The various hues of the beautiful fruit, provided by Gunter, greatly enhanced the splendour of the scene. A silver cornucopia, standing two feet in height, supported by river gods in silver, and crowded with fruits, was much admired for its appropriateness as emblematic of Peace and Plenty. This piece of plate is the work of Messrs. Storr and Mortimer, and was designed by them expressly for Mr. Gunter in honour of the occasion.

The Queen, before leaving the pavilion, expressed to M. and Madame Musurus the high gratification her visit to the Embassy had afforded her. Her Majesty shortly afterwards retired, conducted to her carriage as upon her arrival.

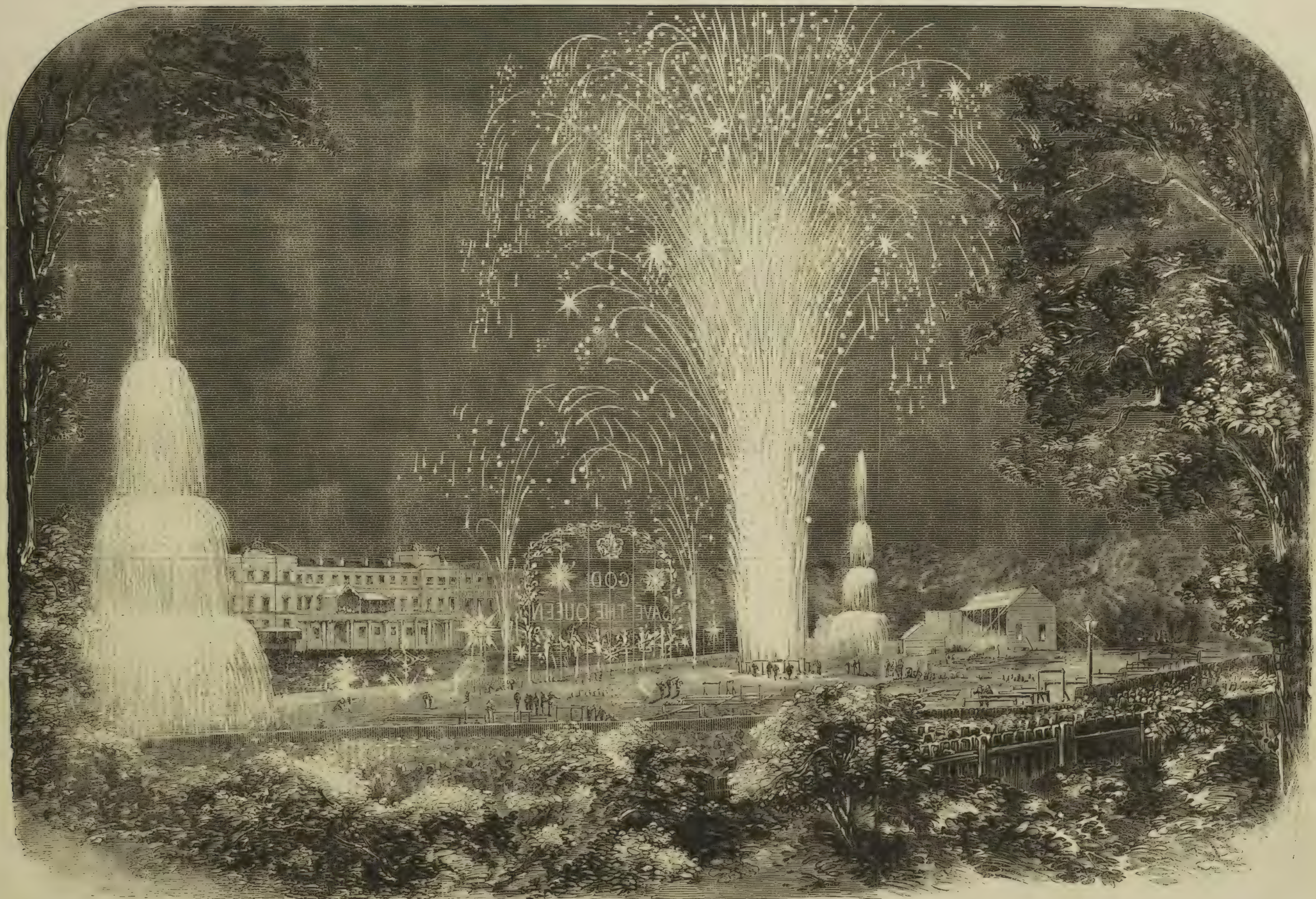
It is worthy of remark, as showing the great importance attached by the Sultan to her Majesty's visit to the Embassy, that some time ago the Sultan sent Madame Musurus a magnificent present of diamonds especially for this occasion.

The general company protracted their enjoyment of the fête up to an advanced hour.

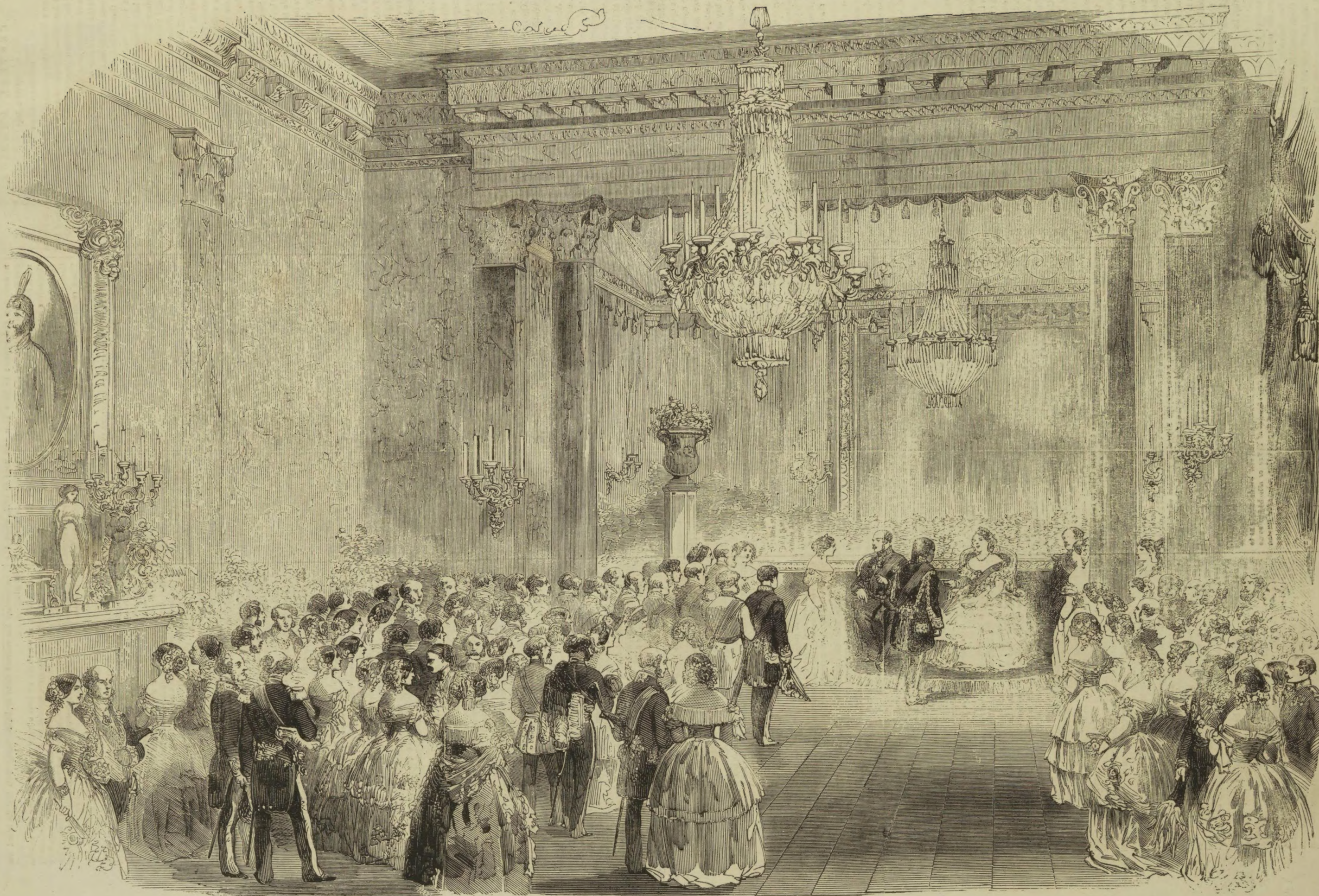
The decorations of the mansion were ably executed by Messrs. Collman and Davis, whose skill and taste proved them worthy of the trust.

SCOTTISH EMIGRATION TO TURKEY.—On Thursday about twenty-five agricultural labourers, with their wives and families, left the *Armenia*, Glasgow, by the *Beaver* steamer, en route for Liverpool, whence they sail on Saturday for Turkey by the screw-steamer *Armenia*. They are under the charge of, and are accompanied by, Mr. Gebbie, lately farm overseer to Mr. Dixon, of Govan Iron Works, and are to be employed under him in introducing the Scotch system of farming amongst the Turks and Greeks, upon a beautiful and extensive estate acquired by Thomas Barry, Esq., situated about twelve miles from Constantinople. Mr. Barry, long engaged in the cultivation of the soil in the native, he resolved to offer the example of a better system, both for the improvement of his own property, and for the benefit of the ignorant Turkish cultivators in general. He accordingly sent a commission to Messrs. Edmonston and Mitchell, of Glasgow, to secure a competent overseer and a number of industrious and intelligent Scotch peasants, and to send them along with agricultural implements, &c., to Constantinople. This commission, so far as we learn, has been executed by our townsman with great success and ability. In addition to the human freight already alluded to, they have sent off agricultural implements of every variety and of the very best description, consisting of ploughs, harrows, spades, rollers, &c. They have also forwarded a large quantity of the most valuable agricultural seeds. The extent of the consignment of tools and seeds may be understood when we state that three spacious railway waggons were filled by it to the roof. Another detachment of agricultural labourers is soon to follow. We have reason to believe that this consignment of men and material is likely, in due course, to be followed by others.—*Glasgow Herald*.

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN IN FRANCE TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS FROM POISONOUS SUBSTANCES.—The Dublin College of Physicians lately directed that all poisonous fluids or substances should be kept in square bottles, whilst all others might be placed in round ones. The authorities in France are also very anxious to prevent fatal mistakes; and, with this view, it has just been ordered that all poisonous substances or fluids which are dispensed by pharmacists should bear labels of a bright orange-red colour, so that even illiterate persons should at once be made aware that caution is necessary respecting the contents of the bottle bearing, as it were, such a conspicuous signal.



THE PEACE CONVINCED BY THE FIREWORKS IN THE GREEN-PARK: THE GRAND FINALE.—(SEE PAGE 641.)



HER MAJESTY AT THE BALL OF THE TURKISH EMBASSY.—(SEE PAGE 643.)

CENTRAL AMERICA.

(With a Map.)

GENERAL REMARKS.

In producing a Map of that portion of the New World generally known as Central America—that narrow and irregularly-shaped strip of land separating the northern from the southern continent—it is right to state at the outset that the matter is one surrounded by many difficulties in regard to the boundaries of particular States, and the names of some places. These difficulties arise out of the fact of disputed ownership as to some of these places, added to the circumstance, by no means unimportant in itself, that many of them have never, hitherto, been accurately laid down upon any maps of authority. Indeed, it was only recently—since the discovery of mineral wealth in California and in Australia, and the settlement of the former State and that of Oregon—that that part of the world appeared to be of any intrinsic value or political importance, and that chiefly as affording an eligible route between the Old World and the Eastern States of America, and the important interests thus newly developed in the Pacific.

The Map which accompanies the present article is based upon the most accurate authorities, having reference to recent and actual survey, including more particularly Bailey's Map, with additions from Admiralty charts, &c., as published by Sandford and Co., of Charing-cross, and Squier's Maps of Central American districts, published in various works.

The whole range of territories to which the term "Central America" applies once formed part of the Spanish empire in the New World, where they were classed as the Audiencia or Captaincy of Guatemala. It was the least explored, and always considered the least important, of the three Spanish governments in America (Mexico and Guadalajara being the other two); and there is no question that from a very early period England had obtained a footing, and even established settlements, in many parts falling within the range of the dominions claimed by the Spanish Crown, and that their so doing led to constant disputes and hostilities between the subjects of the two Crowns, and sometimes between the Crowns themselves. It is not going too far to say that this wild warfare in lands little known, and little valued by the home authorities, had been waged, with various fortunes, by enterprising and daring individuals from an early period after the first discovery of the New World, and had become a matter of European notoriety and interest from the sixteenth down to the middle of the eighteenth century. These disputes, and the pretensions of the subjects of the two Crowns in these regions, were eventually settled by treaty, as will presently be shown.

Of the general geographical and topographical features of Central America we cannot do better than quote a passage from Squier's "Notes on Central America,"—undoubtedly an able work, though throughout written in the spirit of a partisan, in hostility to the pretensions and policy of Great Britain:—

"Central America, in respect of geographical position, almost realises the ancient idea of the centre of the world. Not only does it connect the two grand divisions of the American continent, the northern and the southern hemispheres, but its ports open to Europe and Africa on the east, and to Polynesia, Asia, and Australia on the west.

"Looking at the map, we find, at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the Gulf of Mexico approaching to within 200 miles of the Western Ocean, the waters of the river Coatzacoalcas, which flows into the former, almost interlocking with those of the Chiapa, flowing into the latter. Below this point the continent widens, embracing the high table-lands of Guatemala upon the west, and the broad plains of Tabasco, Chiapa, and Yucatan upon the north and east. The Gulf or Bay of Honduras, however, closes around this section upon the south-east, and again narrows the continent to less than 150 miles. The country intervening between this bay and the Pacific is marked by a complete interruption of the Cordilleras, and is traversed by a great transverse valley, running due north and south, through which the large river Uluu finds its way to the Atlantic, and the smaller river Goascoran flows into the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific. Still lower down, and passing the grand transverse basin of Nicaragua, is the well-known narrow Isthmus of Panama or Darien, over which the tide of emigration has twice poured its floods—once upon Peru, and again upon the glittering shores of California.

"Nor are the topographical characteristics of Central America less remarkable than its geographical features. In its physical aspect and configuration of surface it has very justly been observed that it is an epitome of all other countries and climates of the globe. High mountain ranges, isolated volcanic peaks, elevated table-lands, deep valleys, broad and fertile plains, and extensive alluvions, are here found grouped together, relieved by large and beautiful lakes and majestic rivers, the whole teeming with animal and vegetable life, and possessing every variety of climate, from torrid heats to the cool and bracing temperature of eternal spring.

"Topographically, Central America presents three marked centres of elevation, which have, to a certain degree, fixed its political divisions. The first is the great plain, or broken table-land, in which is situated the city of Guatemala, and which is upwards of four thousand feet above the sea. Here the large rivers Usumasinta and Tabasco, flowing northward through Chiapa and Tabasco into the Gulf of Mexico, take their rise. Their sources interlock with those of the Motagua or Gualan, running eastward into the Gulf of Honduras, and with those of the small streams which send their waters westward into the Pacific.

"A group of mountains occupies Honduras, presenting an almost mural front toward the Pacific, but shooting out numerous spurs or subordinate branches, like the fingers of an outspread hand, toward the north and east. Between these ranges, and in some cases almost encircled by hills, are several broad valleys or plains of different elevations, in which are gathered the waters of thousands of rivulets and small streams, forming numerous considerable rivers, which radiate north and east into the Caribbean Sea, and south and west into the Southern Ocean. Among the most remarkable are the Chamelicon, the Uluu, Lean, Roman or Tinto, Patuca, Coco (Wanks or Segovia), upon the eastern slope; the Choluteca, Nacaome, Goascoran, San Miguel, and Lempa, upon the western.

"Intervening between this and the third great centre of elevation in Costa Rica is the basin of the Nicaraguan lakes, with its verdant slopes and gently undulating plains. The nucleus of the elevation in Costa Rica is the great volcano of Cartago, which towers in its midst. Here the Cordilleras assume their general character of a great unbroken mountain barrier, but soon subside again in low ridges on the Isthmus of Panama."

The total area of Central America may be calculated at 155,000 square miles, and the population at about 2,000,000, of which Guatemala has 850,000; San Salvador, 394,000; Honduras, 350,000; Nicaragua, 300,000; and Costa Rica, 125,000.

Before quitting these general remarks it is necessary, in order to guard against mistakes, to state that the term "Central America" is itself of doubtful origin and undefined application. It is certainly of

no antiquity, and appears to have been first used in 1821, when the five provinces constituting the government of Guatemala—viz., Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica—formed themselves into the short-lived "Republic of Central America." This union has since been broken up, and the several provinces form distinct States—the boundaries of many of which are matter of dispute. These remarks are important when considering the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, where the term "Central America" is used.

HISTORY OF BRITISH RELATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of May 10 we gave an abstract of the conflicting arguments of the British and American Governments as to the construction to be given to the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Referring to the correspondence on this subject, we pointed out, as a most important element in the dispute, that, when that treaty was in course of negotiation, it was distinctly agreed that it should not in any way prejudice the *status quo* of Great Britain in this region, many of whose pretensions had been openly contested by the American Government. This condition, however, the American Government has since sought to evade; and, in the correspondence which has taken place between the two Governments, Lord Clarendon has been led into a discussion as to the historical antecedents of our relations in this quarter, tending to involve the merits of our *status quo*, which he had a perfect right to decline entering upon, and which we think he would have done wisely to have avoided; as, from the terms of our agreement with America, these particulars had nothing whatever to do with the case upon which we are at issue. Nevertheless, as these circumstances have been troached in a manner which forces them upon the attention of the world, we propose to take them in review, having reference to the statements advanced respectively by the American and British Governments, as well as by other authorities.

The relations of Great Britain in Central America at the time of signing the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty may be classed under two heads—1. The settlement of British Honduras, with its dependencies, the islands of Ruatan, Guanaja, or Bonacca, &c., since formed into the colony of "the Bay Islands"; 2. The protectorate of the Mosquito Territory.

With respect to our position in British Honduras, otherwise known as the Belize Settlement, from an early period British subjects had been allowed to settle and cut logwood in certain portions of the country on the west shore of Honduras Bay; and, doubts and disputes having arisen as to the extent of this privilege, the treaty of 1783 contained a clause restricting it within a district extending between the river Uluu, or Belize, on the north, and the Rio Hondo, on the south; and it was stipulated that "all English who may be dispersed in any other part; whether on the Spanish continent or in any of the islands whatsoever dependent on the aforesaid Spanish continent, and for whatever reason it might be, without exception, shall retire within the district which has been above described in the space of eighteen months." It was further provided that the permission granted to cut logwood "shall not be considered as derogating in any wise from his (the King of Spain's) rights of sovereignty" over the district in question. By the treaty of 1786 it was provided that British subjects should be allowed to cut mahogany-wood as well as logwood within the newly-defined district.

With respect to the Mosquito territory, and generally, the treaty of 1786 provided that "his Britannic Majesty's subjects, and the other colonists who have hitherto enjoyed the protection of England, shall evacuate the country of the Mosquito, and as well as the continent in general, and the islands adjacent, without exception;" but, on the other hand, precautions were taken to ensure the Mosquito people from persecution by the Spaniards. The 14th article of the Convention provides that "his Catholic Majesty, prompted solely by motives of humanity, promises to the King of England that he will not exercise any act of severity against the Mosquitos inhabiting in part the countries which are to be evacuated by virtue of the present convention, on account of the connections which may have subsisted between the said Indians and the English; and his Britannic Majesty, on his part, will strictly prohibit all his subjects from furnishing arms or warlike stores to the Indians in general situated upon the frontiers of the Spanish possessions."

Mr. Buchanan insists that these treaties foreclose our claim for all time to any possession or protectorate in any part of what was once Spanish territory; and that all the several Republics and di-jointed States which have sprung out of the ruins of that empire inherit all its rights under those treaties. Lord Clarendon disputes this position, and with justice on his side. Nothing is more clearly established in international law than that a treaty between States only inures during the existence of those States in their essential conditions, and that it does not necessarily inure to the use of a new State or Government formed upon the subversion of the original State with which the treaty was made. In the case of a national revolution, as in France, it has been recently the custom to recognise the new order of things, and to confirm all existing treaties; and even in the cases of large republics dismembered from the mother country this has been done. The British Government distinctly recognised the independence of the Republics of Mexico, Columbia, and Buenos Ayres, and made commercial treaties with them in 1825; but the "Republic of Central America" it never so recognised.

Lord Clarendon also maintains that, independently of these considerations, the fact of England having been at war with Spain since 1786 did away with the treaties in question; but this is an argument founded, in our opinion, upon very doubtful authority, and it is, moreover, not at all essential to our position. We think it sufficient to rest the case of the British Government upon these considerations, that after centuries of disputes and open hostilities we contented to abandon certain possessions and certain political pretensions to the Spanish crown, taking, at the same time, a guarantee of quiet enjoyment as to certain defined rights and privileges, and a guarantee against persecution of a friendly tribe whom we had heretofore protected. Are the States which have formed themselves out of the debris of the Spanish empire in these parts, supposing we were willing to transfer our treaty relations and obligations to them, willing and able to confirm us in those rights, and to satisfy us as to the continued due performance of that guarantee? Obviously not; and it is for this reason that the British Government has renewed its protectorate of the Mosquitos, and reassumed its former ancient possessions in British Honduras and Honduras Bay. What would follow if we were to abandon the Mosquito protectorate is too significantly stated by Mr. Buchanan to leave a doubt. After insisting that, "even if these savages had never been actually subdued by Spain, this would give them no title to rank as an independent State, without violating the principles and practice of every European nation without exception which has acquired territory on the continent of America," he goes on to say:—

The moment Great Britain shall withdraw from Bluefields, where she now exercises exclusive dominion over the Mosquito shore, the former relations of the Mosquitos to Nicaragua and Honduras, as the successors of Spain, will naturally be restored. When this event shall occur, it is to be hoped that these States, in their conduct towards the Mosquitos and the other Indian tribes within their territories, will follow the example of Great Britain and the United States.

In short, they would be left to the tender mercies of Walker and his filibusters to exterminate at their pleasure.

With regard to Ruatan and the adjoining islands, forming the colony of the Bay Islands, Lord Clarendon, in his reply to Mr. Buchanan's statement, observes:—

As to Ruatan, and the adjoining islands, all that can be debated as to them is, whether they are island dependencies of Belize or attached to some Central American State. Now, it cannot be disputed that, whenever Ruatan has been permanently occupied, either in remote or recent times, by anything more than a military guard or flag-staff, the occupation has been by British subjects.

It is true that the Republic of Central America declared that it had had a flag flying in that island from 1821 to 1839; but this fact merely rested on that Republic's declaration, and all that is positively known is, that when the British Government were aware that a foreign flag was flying at Ruatan a British ship-of-war was sent to haul it down, and since that time no attempt has been made to re-establish it; but, on the contrary, when on two or three occasions complaints have been brought by the citizens of Central American States against the settlers in Ruatan to the commandant at Truxillo, the

commandant has referred them to Belize, telling them that the island was British.

Assuming, as we think we have a right to do, that the old treaties with Spain do not now inure against us in their disabling character; that, in short, we are now, by the dissolution of the Spanish rule in these parts, left precisely on the footing that we were before the signing of those treaties, it becomes interesting to inquire a little what are our antecedents in Central America?

Squier, in his "Notes on Central America," speaking of the Rio Tinto, Negro or Black River, has the following:—

It was on this river that the English had a fort and some settlements during the last century, which were, however, evacuated in 1786, in conformity with the treaty that year negotiated between England and Spain. Subsequent attempts were made to found permanent establishments there, one under the auspices of the Cacique of Poyas, Sir Gregor M'Gregor, and another, in 1839—41, by an English company, under the countenance of the British settlement at Belize; but all have proved signal failures. The last adventurers named the district the Province Victoria, and made an unimportant establishment, to which they gave the name of Fort Wellington.

Of this plan, however abortive, it is important to observe that amongst the territories included in the proposed Poyas kingdom were the islands of Ruatan and Guanaja (Bonacca).

Again he says, "The Black River Lagoon, called Criba by the Spaniards, according to Roberts, who visited it, is about fifteen miles long by seven wide. It contains several small islands, which were cultivated during the English occupation of Black River. At this period they erected considerable works of defence, which were enlarged by the Spaniards after the English evacuation, the ruins of which are still conspicuous."

Again, after denouncing the proceedings of the British freebooters of the seventeenth century, whom he calls "pirates," and with whom the Mosquito shore, and "that part of Guatemala now called Belize, were favourite localities," he tells us that in 1642 "an English detachment of this fraternity" captured Ruatan and the neighbouring islands, whose safe and excellent harbours, fine climate, and abundant supplies, had attracted their favourable notice. The Spaniards, after two battles, succeeded in driving them away, but apparently only for a time. Certain it is that they found the islands waste, and early abandoned them; that in 1742 the English were again in the ascendancy in these parts, and "attempted the project of obtaining possession of the whole of the Atlantic coast in Central America," in furtherance of which they forcibly seized upon several important points of the main land, including Truxillo, and were establishments and erected forts at the mouth of the Black River; "they also occupied Ruatan, and fortified it with materials carried off from Honduras."

Brooks, in his "General Gazetteer," date 1853, states of the island of Ruatan, "This beautiful island, partially covered with wood, was once in possession of the English, who fortified its excellent harbour, but abandoned it when they withdrew from the Mosquito shore." To which is now to be added, that they re-occupied it when they resumed the protectorate of the Mosquito people.

To show that our occupation in these parts was not one of mere forcible possession we may refer to a memorial laid before the British Government in 1773, entitled "Some Account of the British Settlements on Mosquito Shore," which, after adverting to the voluntary allegiance tendered by the inhabitants of that coast about the time of the conquest of Jamaica, says of the Mosquito Indians:—

Their submission to the sovereignty of Great Britain was not only solemnly renewed by the Mosquito King in person to the Duke of Albemarle (son of General Monk), when Governor of Jamaica; but it is a fact not to be denied that they have made it a point to give to almost every succeeding Governor fresh assurances of their allegiance; in consequence of which Great Britain did, for upwards of a century, afford them protection, and has for many years constantly distributed annual presents amongst their native chieftains.

We further find the Mosquitos described in Jeffrey's "Spanish West Indies," published, in 1762, as

A small nation of Indians never conquered by the Spaniards; the country being so situated as to render any attempts against them impracticable; for they are surrounded on all sides by land with morasses or inaccessible mountains, and by sea with shoals and rocks; besides, they have such an implacable hatred to the Spaniards that they would never have any correspondence with them.

With respect to Greytown, formerly St. Juan de Nicaragua, although it was claimed and constituted a port of entry by the Spaniards in 1796, Lord Palmerston, in a despatch to Mr. Castillon, Minister of Nicaragua, dated July, 1849, states:—

If it be established, as it clearly is, that the Mosquito territory is, and for centuries has been, a separate State, distinct from the American possessions of Spain, there cannot be a moment's doubt that the port of Greytown, at the mouth of the river San Juan, belongs to, and forms part of, the Mosquito territory. This can be shown by quotations from numerous authorities, public and private, official and literary; and so far from there being any just ground to doubt that the southern extremity of the Mosquito territory includes the port of Greytown, there are, on the contrary, good and substantial reasons which can be alleged to show that the rights of the Mosquitos extend southward as far as the Boca del Toro, at which place the King of Mosquito has at various times exercised rights by levying duties.

BOUNDARIES, ETC., OF BRITISH HONDURAS AND THE MOSQUITO TERRITORY.—PROJECTS OF INTER-OCEANIC COMMUNICATION.

It remains to say something of the disputed boundaries to which we referred, at the opening of the present article, as a difficulty inherent to this subject. The settlement of British Honduras the American Government would restrict within the limits prescribed by the treaty with Spain of 1783; bounded by the Rio Hondo and the Sibou river (as shown by a dotted line on the map); whereas, in reality, it extends south as far as the Sarstoon river, a distance of 250 miles by the sea-coast, and with a breadth inland of about 150 miles. The "Mosquito shore" is described by the American authorities as a narrow strip of land along the coast, lying between Bluefields Lagoon and Cape Cameron; whereas we claim for its extreme coast limits Cape Honduras on the north, and the St. Juan river on the south, with a considerable extent of territory inland.

The value of the British Honduras settlement, and of its dependencies, has been very much underrated by persons not aware of the real facts. We speak of its intrinsic commercial value, bearing in mind that Belize is the chief depôt for the supply of the Central American States, altogether irrespective of the political importance of the position. The *Times*, some months ago, ridiculed the notion of our entertaining a diplomatic difficulty about the Central American question, and spoke of British Honduras and its dependencies as "a worthless settlement;" and Mr. Bright, in a speech lately addressed to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said, "We have got a small town of 400 or 500 houses, called Belize, at the mouth of the river Belize, and two small islands, which are perhaps of no value at all." Mr. Temple, Chief Justice at Belize, however, in a letter recently addressed to the "Journal of the Society of Arts," upon the "Commercial Importance of Honduras as a British Settlement," meets both these disparaging statements, and shows that there is a ranging population of from 5000 to 8000 in Belize, and, at the lowest computation, 1500 houses; and that a very extensive trade is carried on in it, as the following returns will show:—In the year 1853 the total amount of the exports from Honduras to Great Britain, the United States, and other countries, was £345,377. In 1854 the total amount was £452,313. In 1853 the total amount of outward ships was 23,936 tons; in 1854 it was 27,803 tons. The number of men employed in the former year was 990; in the latter, 1132. In 1854 the total amount of the imports was £2,417,642. The inward ships in that year from Great Britain, the United States, and other countries, amounted to 31,124 tons, and the number of men employed was 1259.

But it is from their geographical bearings, and as the travelling-ground between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, that the small States of Central America now derive their principal importance. Various plans for this purpose have been proposed, the outlines for which are shown on the map; viz., a railway across the Isthmus of Panama; a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien; a railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; a ship canal by the river St. Juan and through the Lake Nicaragua; and a railway across the State of Honduras, to commence at Port Cabaños, in the Bay of Honduras, on the Atlantic side, and terminate in the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific side. There are physical difficulties in the way of all these projects; and the only one actually undertaken—and that is now near completion—is the Panama Railway. The Isthmus of Darien project, in which, by the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, the British Government agreed to co-operate, has not yet been set about, nor is it likely to be.

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